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tharunka

Week 4/Week 5/Week 6/Session 2 Edition 51 issue 7

Morris lemma – Premier of NSW, or Urban myth?

New photographic evidence has surfaced supporting the existence of a mysterious creature inhabiting Sydney's Macquarie street. Dubbed the "Morris lemma" by the media, the creature is supposedly the Premier of NSW, though no concrete proof has yet been found to confirm that the phantom is anything other than an hysterical fiction. Nevertheless, residents of Sydney are being advised to stay indoors, as next to nothing is known about the Morris lemma.

The grainy, out of focus images seem to depict a Llama-like creature in NSW State Parliament. The pictures are said by some to vindicate several sworn testimonials by frightened members of the NSW Labor party.

The sudden appearance of the beast has been linked by some to the disappearance of Premier Bob Carr, Treasurer Andrew Refshauge, and Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Craig Knowles, though this is most likely nothing more than wild speculation.



Very little is known about the Morris lemma or its behaviour. If you see the monster, do not approach it – in its confusion and fear it could attack, or reverse unpopular policies of the previous administration. Zoologists and political analysts recommend that you treat the situation with the same degree of caution you would exercise in the presence of a politician or bear.



Counting to two, however, was another matter entirely.



After a gruelling three days, Vladimir Putin feeds the final vote for the opposition into the paper shredder.

Space programme shifts focus from "Exploring Space" to "Trying really hard not to explode people"

OPEC supplies at \$40 a barrel; \$20 extra for oil

Law and order projected to reach 70 000th spin-off by 2020

Australia to negotiate uranium exporting deal with China: "Blow us up last."

GUILD
UNSW STUDENT GUILD
BY STUDENTS. FOR STUDENTS.

Satire by Patrick Coyte

COMICS

THE MULTIVERSE

Is Earth far from here?



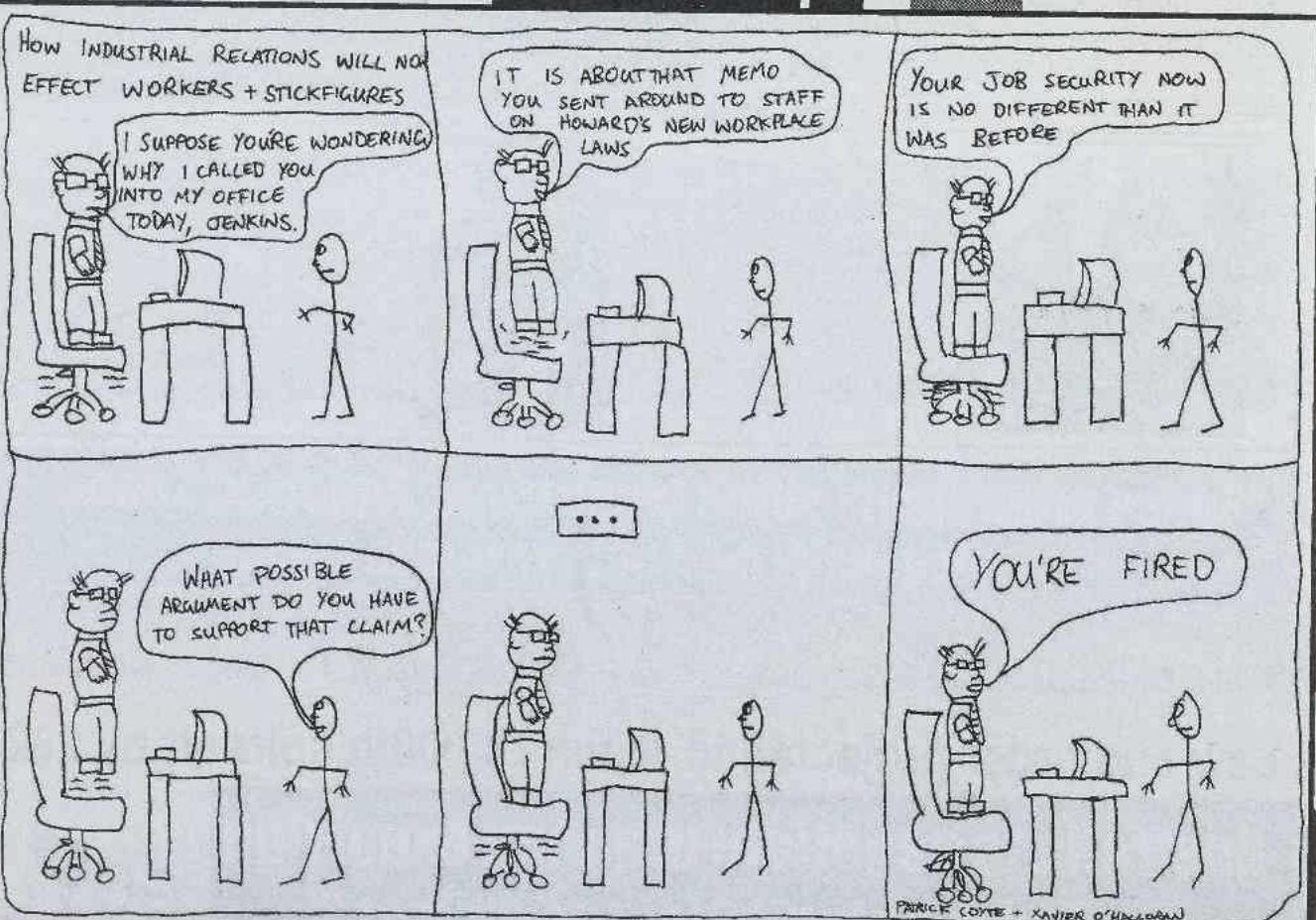
Not really.
Why are you
going there?

We want to inspire
fear, hate, destruction
and chaos on that
pesky planet.



I'm afraid the
party's started
without you,
buddy.

iain Murray z3058978@student.unsw.edu.au



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Corrections from last issue:
Page 5 'China has moved on' was written by Paul Wong
Page 10 'Changes to HECS and PELS' was written by Alex Serpo

STRAY PENGUIN SIGHTING:
If you know where this penguin lives collect him from the Tharunka office.

This publication has been authorised
by the Guild Publisher Gulfam Ahmed.

15/08/05

Tharunka is the Journal of the University of New South Wales Student Guild of Undergraduates and Postgraduates. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Student Guild nor of the University.
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Google Whacked

By Xavier O'Halloran

Do you ever wonder why you keep getting penis enlargement or cheap Viagra advertisements in your email inbox? Did you assume, like many, that it was just a coincidence? Have you told yourself "surely these advertisements have nothing to do with my small/flaccid penis?"

Well you would be wrong. Google's new email client, Gmail, has been tailoring its advertisements to its users. Gmail automatically scans the contents of your emails and inserts relevant advertising in response to keywords. For example, if I received an email from a friend about all-male ballet in the Inner West of Sydney, I might see a few advertisements to the side of my email telling me about ballet classes.

So is this ability to scan emails and distribute targeted advertisements and invasion of privacy?

Google claim they are not breaching privacy because the process involves computers scanning emails and no human is privy to the contents or meaning of any email sent.

According to the California Penal Code (Google's head office is located in the Sunshine

State), it is a crime to "by means of any machine instrument, or contrivance, or in any other manner, ... wilfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, ... learn the contents or meaning of any message, report, or communication while the same is in transit or passing over any wire, line, or cable, or is being sent from, or received at any place within this state; or [to] use, or attempt to use, in any manner, or for any purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information so obtained."

According to this Penal Code the fact that emails are being read by computers

rather than humans is irrelevant. Gmail users must consent to the scanning of their emails prior to sign up, however, it is the email that is *sent* to a Gmail user that undergoes scanning. So it is not really the invasion of *your* privacy that you are consenting to.

Google has been able to bypass this wiretap law because it is rather dated and only covers communications that are in transit. Gmail actually scans your email when you open it; this simultaneous scanning means Google is technically not intercepting any communications.

Google is quick to point out that their targeted advertising is more like any other valued service it offers its users, like virus scanning or spam filtering all of which scan the contents of an email and potentially invade privacy.

However, these forms of privacy invasion are far more tolerated because they are actually helpful and protect internet users. Google even claim that "users will also find Gmail's ads and related pages to be helpful, because the information reflects their interests."

Critics of Google's targeted advertisements have likened the scheme to that of the Echelon project the U.S. government implemented on a small scale after cyber attacks on their computer systems were launched from Harvard University in August 1995. This project

scanned millions of electronic communications coming out of Harvard for suspect data and then flagged these communications for human analysis. While this may appear to be an effective way to weed out cyber crime it is also a major invasion of privacy.

So next time you receive an email telling you about the merits of a penis extension, whether you're a man or woman or other, maybe you should take its advice. After all the computer that sent you that email probably knows you better than you know yourself.

**"surely these
advertisements
have nothing to
do with my small/
flaccid penis?"**

Backdoor Entry

On the set of

a porn film

By Andrew O'Loughlin

I rush towards the lift, already late for my appointment (a fellow student of our esteemed institution has run into the back of my car). Luckily, I'm not too late and no one's hurt. I meet a young couple at the foot of the slow lift. "Are you here for the inspection?" asks the woman. "Um, no. I'm here to see a movie being made," I reply with a slight smile.

When I eventually get to the flat, I open the door and meet Cam, Marty, Mark and Andre*, the film's photographer, director, and actors.



Cam is the most flamboyant – he is very expressive, funny and occasionally has a dig at his partner in production, Marty. While Marty's the best dressed, he's a little bit more reserved. The actors are very quiet, a little pensive.

I talk to Marty first and quiz him a little on the logistics of the whole production. Surprisingly, finding a place to shoot is pretty easy. The films are shot either at a mate's place (such as the one I'm at) or in a 'queer friendly' hotel room. The time it takes to film the "Reality Series", as this production is called, is not long. The crew enters the room, sets up, takes photos, films the shoot and packs up again within two and a half hours. From this, Cam gets 500 photos and Marty gets 30 minutes of footage.

The particular shoot that I'm watching is an amateur-style one with no dialogue. Although there are more professional shoots within the industry, this is where most budding actors will start out. Cam says that there's no chance for anyone in Australia seeing this particular production, because it's purely for the US market. "It's funny that in the US, it's Jesusland [the South] that pulls in the most money."

Since getting an erection is imperative for shooting a sex scene, Viagra (or its Mexican equivalent) has become an "insurance policy" for many actors on the set. At times, an actor who fails to get an erection can hold up a shoot for hours, so using drugs is the safest bet. The only problem with this is that it can increase

the time it takes for an actor to 'pop'. "Sometimes, you can wait up to an hour," Marty tells me.

There's no actual plot in the Reality Series being filmed. In Marty's words, "it's just fucking". There's little direction either. "I let the boys go for it free range. They do what they like. If I can't see things, I'll just move into position or ask the boys to move a bit. It's all about dicks and bums really." I was curious to know if the cum or 'money' shot in hetero porn is as important in gay porn. Marty put it quite succinctly. "If you miss the money shot, you're fucked."

When I ask Mark (one of the actors) how he felt before the shoot, he tells me that he just didn't think about it. The way he approached the shoot was to not have any preconceived ideas about what it would be like. I was a bit surprised to learn that Mark's motivation for being a 'porn star' was "money, pure and simple. There was an element of curiosity as



well, but it was mainly the \$300 for 2 hours work."

Andre, the other actor, is not a first timer and had different reasons. "I find it sexy and it turns me on. The thought of people watching turns me on even more." Just before his solo scenes Andre tells me,

"there's no nervousness, just anticipation." I ask him about his first time as well. "The first time is different. It's 40% nerves, 60% you want to get into it, 'cause you're thinking – 'I'm gonna be in a porno'. If offered as a career I'll take it...and do it any day," he says.

Whilst filming the series, Cam says he sometimes becomes stimulated. "You do get slightly aroused. When I first started there was a fear of 'pitching the tent' during the shoot. But I'm getting aroused less and less." In fact, most of the nervousness on set has more to do with the production running smoothly. As Cam states, "I get nervous before the set: will they turn up? Will they get along?"

There's also time taken in recruiting people for shoots. "I'm finding that Twinkies (younger men) and guys who aren't built like brick shithouses need to be made to feel that they can do it." When recruiting guys for acting roles, Cam wants to let people know what they should expect. "With 18-19 year old guys, I definitely want them to know what they're getting into. It can't be just that they're desperate for money. This will be around for life. It would be easier if I was an arsehole [and not tell them], but I still have morals. With the uni students, if they're going to get into customer service, it really isn't going to matter. I know a guy who is in customer service with Optus and [earns] \$200,000 per year and being in the [sex industry] hasn't affected him. But if you want to be a politician, it may come back to bite you".

On the set, there's a lot of camaraderie between the crew. When I ask Marty what it is like to work with Cam he is blunt. "He's a cunt." (Silence for a second, then laughter.) Smiling, he then says, "We have a lot of fun on set. It's important to keep it light hearted...the worst thing to do is put pressure on the [actors]."

During a break, Cam and Marty talk about a time when they missed a cum/money shot and how much of a pain it was. Suddenly, Andre yells out "I came!". There is a moment of horrified silence before Andre starts laughing. I start laughing as well, and Marty mutters "little shit."

*Not their real names.



Scanning of student cards for Union discount

If you've bought a product from a Union outlet in the last couple of weeks, you would have noticed that you needed to have your student card scanned. But more inquiring minds at our university might be wondering why.

A number of students have contacted *Tharunka* regarding the UNSW Union's new policy of scanning member cards at all its retail outlets before members can receive their 10% discount. Concerns raised centre around exactly what information is captured during the scan – particularly whether personal spending habits could be collated and analysed for use by the Union or sold to marketers targeting the student demographic. A number of students have also raised the point that if they are uncomfortable with having their card scanned, they cannot claim the discount that their membership fee entitles them to.

In response to concerns raised by *Tharunka*, the Union has posted a message on its website (www.union.unsw.edu.au) advising that "no information is being collected via the swipe". If no information is currently being collected via card scanning, is the system capable of collecting student information? In response to this question, Union President Kirsten Hunter told *Tharunka* that "In the current system there is no capability at all to collect data." As for the question of whether this could be guaranteed in the future, Ms Hunter said that "Obviously, you'll understand, it's difficult for me to give you a promise one way or another because I obviously can't estimate the decisions of future Boards, but there is no plan at the moment to collect any kind of student data from this."

So why has the new procedure been introduced? In an email responding to *Tharunka*'s inquiry, Union CEO, Tony Cinque, said that "by asking Union Members to present their card for swiping at Union outlets, the Union is ensuring that all Members receive all the discounts to which they are entitled... as clearly articulated on the Union's website, no data is being collected."

In his email to *Tharunka*, Mr Cinque confirmed the following points posed by *Tharunka*:

- The swiping system did not cost anything to institute
- The system uses no new hardware or software and is simply the utilisation of an existing system
- The system collects no data and has no capacity to collect data
- Any system capable of collecting customer data would require new software and/or hardware
- Such a system would require Union Board approval
- There have been no estimates of the amount of money the Union has been losing from non-members claiming the discount

Regarding this final point, Ms Hunter told *Tharunka*: "It's pretty difficult to [estimate the aggregate of discounts claimed by non-members] without actually sitting there and watching over people's shoulders. At the moment we don't have any information on the number of people who are non-members that have been claiming Union discounts."

"I don't know if we will see a difference between the number of student discounts that are claimed since the current system has been instituted compared to the number that had been claimed before as a proportion of the total user number. But at the moment it is hard to really get that sort of data."

by Janet Duncan and Patrick Coyte

THE BATTLE AGAINST PARKING METERS

A METERED RESPONSE

On Thursday the 11th of August, the students of UNSW and the people of Randwick won a significant victory in a long-running campaign. On the day, Mayor of Randwick Cr Murray Matson issued a press release announcing he was "recommending that fellow Councillors abandon implementing five parking meter areas".

If you haven't participated in protest actions against the scheme or read about it in *Tharunka*, Randwick Council's plans to install parking meters in the streets surrounding UNSW, the Prince of Wales Hospital and three beach locations might have passed you by. In the event of these meters being installed however, you are likely to notice them if you drive to university – a charge of \$3.30 an hour to attend a lecture is something not easily missed.

At the time of printing, the question of meters still hangs in the air – an extraordinary meeting of Council is to be held this Tuesday the 16th of August to decide the issue. If the meters are voted out entirely, it will signal the end of a struggle that started in 2004.

PARKING ON BORROWED TIME

If meters are installed around UNSW, as was Council's original plan, any student who is not a resident of Randwick will be forced to pay \$3.30 an hour for the privilege of parking anywhere near campus. However, it is these students who live further away who have the most need to drive to university. Forcing students to decide between paying \$6.60 to attend a two-hour lecture or spending two and a half hours on public transport to attend the same is a blessing in terms of revenue-raising for the Council. It is not, however particularly considerate to the students who take the time to drive over here four or five times a week to make a considerably large contribution to Randwick's economy.

If you drive to uni you may be beginning to get a little worried about how much additional revenue you will personally be contributing to local Council. Certainly though, you'll be relieved to know that, in fact, the revenue-raising potential of the parking meters is nothing more than a happy coincidence! The primary purpose of the meters is "traffic management". Or at least, it has been since the Council read the RTA's requirements for parking meters. As recently as the 26th of April 2005, the Council presented its "Draft Management Plan 2005/2008", in which it stated in a section entitled "Executive Strategy":

"One of the challenges for the executive team will be to identify and consider some alternative sources of revenue for the City that do not place the entire burden for funding infrastructure renewal and increased service provision solely on the residents of Randwick. There are opportunities to optimise the revenue potential of our property portfolio and install parking meters in some areas".

Council explicitly named parking meters as a revenue-raising strategy, yet the official line less than four months later is that meters are a response to traffic problems. Apparently they will generate greater turnover of cars leading to greater availability of spaces. It is lucky (for Council) that this new justification fulfils its RTA requirement that the primary purpose of meters cannot be revenue-raising.

Council wanted to make sure that everyone in Randwick knew that parking meters were being installed for the reasons that "Everybody knows there is a parking problem" and "it is important that Council protect our residents' rights" (including the right to have guests to your house pay \$3.30 an hour to visit you). To properly fulfil their obligation to educate the community, they spent many thousands of dollars on letter-box pamphleting and taking out advertisements in local media.

The whole concept of using the meters to "manage traffic" around UNSW is laughable in the first place. Even if the measure does allow the residents surrounding the campus to find parking in their street, many of the 1340 students and 2812 staff who travel by car to UNSW (UNSW Transportation Summary 2004, time of peak accumulation) will not have the option to simply find other means of commuting. The inevitable result will be a simple redistribution of parked cars to more distant streets. As John Deegan from the Combined Chambers of Commerce in Randwick pointed out, "where there was not previously a

problem, a new problem will emerge. And as the new problem emerges, we presume the Council will address [it] by putting in some more meters."

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The Chambers of Commerce in Randwick have been

protesting the introduction of parking meters from day one. John Deegan was chosen by the Combined Chambers to represent them on the matter of meters, and spoke to *Tharunka* about the campaign.

"We are a city of small businesses. At the North end we've got a major shopping precinct/complex [Bondi Junction Westfield], at the South end we've got another major shopping complex [Westfield Eastgardens], and those operators offer free parking... if people are required to pay to park in the established shopping centres, they're not going to shop there; they'll take their business elsewhere."

Being sandwiched between the two Westfields and having your customers forced to pay for parking is not exactly a recipe for success. In spite of the Council's talk of "increasing turnover", we need look no further than the metered Oxford street Paddington, which is quite close to Westfield Bondi Junction, for a case study on the effects of meters. As of recently, there were 40 shops with "For Lease" signs in the window. Similar horror stories from crippled restaurants in Leichhardt's Norton street and cafés on Bronte beach abound. The charge on Bronte beach is \$4.50 an hour – doing the maths, \$3.30 for a coffee + \$4.50 for parking = a pretty expensive coffee (and don't think that meter rates couldn't be raised to that level once installed

In bed with the Council

If you held any hopes for UNSW management joining *Tharunka* in opposing the scheme in the interests of students, then you'll be sadly disappointed. In the UNSW administration's "Transportation Summary" (available at e-spot), a list of policies are announced under the heading "University to seek agreement with Randwick Council", notably:

* To progressively introduce meters for short term parking in High Street, Anzac Parade and Day Street

* To progressively introduce meters for long term on-street parking in selected surrounding streets including parts of High Street, Wansey Road and Willis Street

* To progressively reduce the number of on-street spaces available for long term parking in all (other) primary residential streets

* To increase campus parking charges for staff by 8% per year with a review in five years and possible further increase the annual fee thereafter

In light of the following statistics collected in 2004, provided in the same summary, these policies are a particularly unkind cut to many students:

• 56% of students attending UNSW during the day do not live in the Eastern Suburbs

• Over 38.7% of students live in areas that require travelling more than 800m to a station or bus routes

• 1340 students and 2812 staff travel by car to university (in peak accumulation.)

by Patrick Coyte and Janet Duncan

Crossed-Out: Australian Media Faces Deregulation

by Andrew O'Loughlin

They who have put out the people's eyes, reprobate them of their blindness - John Milton.

With the Coalition government gaining control of the Upper House of parliament on July 1, much attention has been paid to government plans to repeal USU across Australia's universities, to enact business-friendly Industrial Relations changes and to enable the full sale of Telstra. However, very little attention has been paid to the Coalition's plans to bring changes to Australia's media ownership laws, which, like the other forms of legislation previously mentioned, have failed to be passed by the Senate since the government came to power in 1996.

The media ownership laws and regulations as they currently stand impose a number of restrictions on who can and can't control the media and how much one person or interest can own. There are limits imposed on the interests a foreigner can control in a media group. For instance, there is a 25% limit on the shares a single foreign shareholder may own in a metropolitan newspaper. For those that call Australia home, it is required that they must not control more than one broadcasting license in a particular area. Therefore, if a person owns a radio station that broadcasts to Sydney, they cannot own another radio station that also serves Sydney. The same applies to both television and newspapers. In addition to these controls are those that apply to cross-media ownership. These regulations stipulate that where there exists broadcasting licenses for radio, television and newspapers in the one area, a person may only own one of them.

Responsibility for the current regulations lies with the Hawke Labor government, who passed the legislation in the late 1980's. The aim of the legislation, according to then Minister of Communications, Michael Duffy, was to discourage the concentration of media ownership in the hands of a few, so that it would enhance the public's access to a diversity of viewpoints, sources of news, information and commentary. This view is supported by a number of commentators who believe that the greater the number of media owners, the more diverse the news that is fed to the public will be. Former prime minister Paul Keating summed up this belief with the short, but sweet phrase, "[As the media moguls] get bigger, our range of news and opinions gets smaller".

However, the present Coalition government views these laws as 'anachronistic'. Firstly, the

laws do not allow for a new television station to be set up and so protect the few players on the market from competition. Additionally, it prevents the more powerful players like PBL (Channel 9), which is owned by Kerry Packer and New Ltd (*The Daily Telegraph*), owned by Rupert Murdoch, from buying out the weaker media companies. These powerful media companies

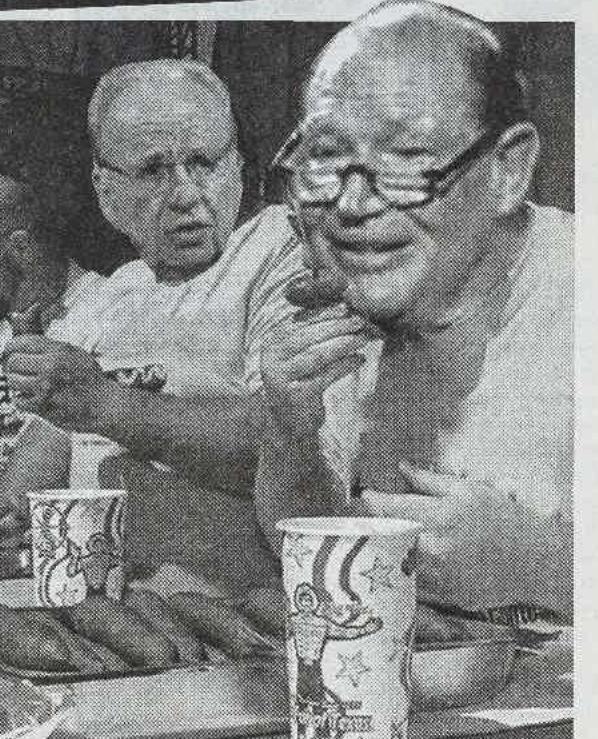
argue that this prevents them from injecting funds into the market, thereby stopping investment in the industry and leading to an inferior product for the consumer.

What the government is planning on changing is foreign ownership of companies. It plans to allow foreign ownership to be greater and to let media companies own two of the three media outlets in a metropolitan area. The industry will then be treated just like any other area of the economy, being subject to competition regulation by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). It is doubtful whether this will prevent media outlets from falling into the hands of a few. A report by the Parliamentary Library found that if the media industry were subject to competition law alone, the minimum possible number of media owners would be reduced by more than 50% in capital cities.

There is certainly some evidence to suggest that the results of the Coalition government's changes will have a detrimental effect on what the public is informed about. The government's Productivity Commissions Inquiry in 2000 on broadcasting concluded that, "The public interest in ensuring diversity of information and opinion and in encouraging freedom of expression in Australian media, leads to a strong preference for more media proprietors, not less". The commission thought this particularly important due to "the wide business interests of some media proprietors". Already,

there are some areas in the Australian media where there is little diversity. Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane all have only one daily newspaper. And

there are instances where the owners of media outlets have not been backwards in making use of their resources. An example of this was during the



Iraq war in 2003, when Keating noted, "Murdoch's organisations cracked the whip in support of George Bush's campaign against Iraq. All News Corporation's media outlets went flat out for it".

An additional case made for the reform of the media ownership laws is the rapid increase in the use of the internet and the introduction of pay TV. It is argued that the presence of these new media outlets increases the diversity of information to the public and so regulation of media ownership is thereby not needed. This line of argument though fails to look at the new technologies in depth. Whilst more people are gaining their news from the Internet than several years ago, they are still getting their news from the major news providers who have expanded their businesses online. Stephen Mayne, who runs the news and current affairs service crikey.com.au says that, "there's no one in Australia running a professional news service online, independent of the major players". The amount of people actually gaining their news online and from pay TV is vastly overstated in these arguments. Research done by the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) in 2003 found that whilst over three-quarters of Australians got their news from television, radio or newspapers, it was only 11% and 10% for Internet and pay TV sources respectively.

Whether the government actually goes through with its intentions to enact its changes to the media ownership laws remains to be seen. Whilst there are a number of people opposed to the proposed changes to the laws, judging by the Coalition government's commitment to free market ideology, one should expect the changes to be pushed through the Senate. Just don't expect to hear much about it.

Single IR system;

Single figure wages

by Justin Li

Most uni students have some sort of part-time or casual work. We're usually happy enough to have a job and accept any terms of employment offered by the employer without knowing exactly how these conditions come about. In reality, there are certain minimum wages and conditions called "awards" set by Industrial Relations Commissions that all employees are entitled to. It is the Award which dictates that you cannot get less than \$15 an hour in your call centre job (rather than the \$5.50 your boss might have otherwise wished to pay). The award also guarantees other non-wage minimum conditions such as leave entitlements and a notice period before you get fired.

For historical and constitutional reasons, Australia has always had a dual Industrial Relations system. For over a century now, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) and its state counterparts have acted as impartial umpires to determine conditions in federal awards and state awards respectively. Although much of the workforce is now regulated by enterprise agreements, AWAs, and individual contracts, awards remain significant for those sectors of the workforce (such as uni students in casual jobs) that lack the industrial muscle to secure improved conditions through direct bargaining. These people are entirely dependent upon award entitlements.

So what is going to change under the Federal Government's IR reform package?

If your conditions are currently determined by a federal award, you are likely to have the number of guaranteed minimum conditions slashed (with no guarantees for meal breaks or overtime pay). According to the Prime Minister John Howard, the idea is to get people to rely on direct bargaining with their employer for as many conditions as possible without third party interventions (I don't doubt Howard, but I don't recall the last time I felt able to bargain for anything in a job interview). A new perhaps ironically named "Fair Pay Commission" will largely replace the existing AIRC in determining federal awards. Details of this new Commission are sketchy. Conceivably, it will be stacked with economists and business representatives (otherwise, what's the point of setting up a new body to do the same job as the AIRC?). The strength of the economy is to be a primary consideration for the Commission in determining future award conditions. Given that unemployment and pressures on interest rates will always exist, it appears there will always be arguments against wage increases.

If you're currently under a state award, you could also be screwed because the other real sting in the IR reform package lies in the hostile takeover of the states' IR systems. State awards, which currently generally provide better conditions than federal awards, will

disappear entirely. Employees under state awards will lose their existing entitlements and be forced to accept poorer conditions in federal awards.

In the past, workers have been able to flee unfriendly IR laws by switching between state and federal systems, taking advantage of the fact that opposite political parties tend to govern at state and federal levels. For example, when Jeff Kennett's Liberal government introduced draconian IR laws in Victoria in 1992, thousands of workers found refuge in the federal system under the then Keating Labor government. When John Howard was elected in 1996, there was a similar exodus of people to the NSW system under the Carr government. This to the NSW system under the Carr government. This existing dual Federal/State IR systems act as an important check and balance against extreme one-sided laws.

Though the political divide in Australia between Labor and Liberal has historically been defined by IR policies, both sides have refrained from extreme laws. In the past, governments have been hesitant to favour either side of the IR debate so as to not upset employers or cause employees to switch to another system. This will no longer happen under a national system. With a majority in both houses of parliament, and no State systems to flee to, employees will be stuck with the most one-sided IR system in Australia's history. Unrestrained by any obstacles, there are credible fears that Australia is on the path to a completely deregulated US-style system, where minimum wages are as low as \$5.50 (\$A) an hour. Howard says that the reforms are necessary to make Australia's economy more competitive and productive. But "competitiveness" is just a battle on price. Goods and services are competitive in a market when they are cheap. Do we really want a country with labour as cheap as China and India?

Despite this bleak picture, Howard's IR reforms are by no means inevitable. Ordinary people always have power to speak out and make certain government decisions politically impossible. Already opinion polls show that the union's recent advertising campaign against the changes has struck a chord with many people. A few government senators have expressed reservations about Howard's ideological agenda. Even the usually conservative Catholic Archbishop George Pell and Family First Senator Steve Fielding have openly criticised the package. The Federal Labor opposition has also led the government in the polls for the first time in a long time. The challenge for the union movement and all those who support a decent standard of living for all Australians is to maintain the pressure on the government and also muster popular support against the changes in the upcoming months. Nothing changes government policies and the minds of government backbenchers more than the prospect of electoral defeat.

LOVE **CELEBRITIES**

Do you know your next-door neighbour's full name? Do you know who Brad Pitt is? Would you recognise his voice if you heard it? What about Russell Crowe or Jennifer Lopez? There is no doubt that celebrity is a strange phenomenon, many people know more about the lives of strangers living halfway across the globe than those who immediately surround them. It is truly bizarre that as a society we deify certain personalities, not because they are inherently superior to the average, but merely on the grounds of money, fame or scandal.

So why do we lift some above the crowd, displaying them like constellations to the intense scrutiny of a million eyes? The answer is of course, my dear reader, love.

We love celebrities. Go on, admit it, you love them. I cannot count the number of girls I have seen wearing a "Brad I'll have your babies" t-shirt or the many screaming girls who show up to a Russell Crowe gig... (nobody shows up for the music). What about you boys? How many of you would like a steamy evening with Jennifer Anniston, Angelina Jolie or Julia Roberts? But we don't just love celebrities because they are beautiful, they all allow us the cinematographic thrill of intimacy with a stranger. With them we travel to far away and distant places. They fill us with joy, sadness, adventure, and most importantly; love.

But what is it about certain individuals that make them the intense focus of public attention? While some possess an intense physical attractiveness, this argument cannot be made for all. Consider the depiction of these men and women in our theatres and magazines. Every action hero is a suburban 'Joe Shmo' before the aliens show up, and our tabloids intensely scrutinise the mistakes of celebrities, always in order to humanise them. The truth is celebrity is a celebration of the ordinary. Celebrities show us that despite money, power or fame, life has ordinary details that remain unchanged. They provide us with mirrors for our own lives that allow us the put the ordinary in the celebrated and the celebrated in the ordinary. Through celebrities we love ourselves and each other more.

But if we love them why do we write so much nasty tabloid gossip about them? Our tabloid scrutiny of many of our celebrities reflects the scrutiny we have for ourselves. As a whole, that makes us a happy and well balanced society. Consider the celebrities of old: Genghis Khan, Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great. What they all have in common is they all committed genocide. Consider the celebrities of today; Paris Hilton, Beyoncé Knowles, Michael Jackson. They are all as equally harmless as each other. It just goes to show the growing love in our society that you no longer have to be a murderer to be famous; you just have to have sex with a lot of people.

Celebrities are also part of our culture and let's face it boys and girls culture is great. I love culture. Culture is how we celebrate who we are as people, and our celebrities are irreplaceably tied up in this process. How many of us have bonded with someone over a movie, band or book we love? All provided by our celebrities. How much duller would our teenage years have been without teen soaps or pop-music? Before you give me the 'pop-culture is just capitalist corporate money making garbage', consider what life was like before it. Embroidery was an exciting pastime, and boys used to think the sight of a girl's ankle was pornographic. How much more libertarian has our society become as a result of pop-culture and the celebrities it generates?

Finally, As for Buck Smallsy, don't listen to him; he's an angry angry man. But really, all he needs is a little love, so if you see him around campus, give him a hug, he really needs it, somewhere deep inside.

Alex Serpo

CELEBRITY **HATE**

and I have something worthy of esteem. Get out there you are nothing, do something else. Be happy with who you are — and if desire to be someone else. Be happy with who you are — and if be laughed. For most, the desire to be famous is really the celebrities embody nothing valuable or lasting, they should ugly".

hundred dollars, thanks".

When someone says, "I'll have Ireyton's ex-wives for four lines. Years from now, the only time you'll ever hear her name be. Carter right. She is a multi-millionaire and Army pilot who is the being. No, pre-red pull it is no life. Discreetly and the tragic consequences of debt dramatic events. Living you care about some dignifiedly claimed millionaire movie clown And why your interest in such utterly unimportant people? Why celebrities' embody nothing valuable or lasting, they should

the getting "guesses".

worse than the BDSM dungeon your parents use to punish-luck growing up. But perpetual adolescence is a prison also, though not dreams allows you to indulge your Peter Pan fantasies and daily have you worked past the playground. Swimming in celebrity being popular is a high-school fantasy. Are you children or adults unwillingly live? Immaturity is a tag-on-one wants to cover, yet returns, why select popularity as the solution to your pointlessness. When you realise your life is explained by the law of diminishing returns, more important should be why you are so desperate for fame.

Far more

define Tom Cruise as important.

little stri-moneys form the bulk of the population and

are forgotten in the crush for a cover story when you

are a society. It is easy to see how more pressing issues

latest exploits headline the evening news, we are lost

one of free houses and magazines. When celebrities

read about every fucking day of their lives in any

Catherine. *WTFRE IS THIS LOVE* (and I can

Brad & Angelina, Kristen & Christina, Michael &

to medium-term "relationships" (Brad & Jen,

James, etc), stars from multiply-bent, short

moonlight in TV series (Kefir, Claudia, David,

like Derek, Tamsin, Holly, Russell, etc), movie actors

publicity so that J-HO speaks AND strikes (just

redundant to all-things-famous has these "popular"

your addition to

ugly pathology stupid and criminally free of sophistication.

upset want to be a through Z list "personality".

stems has become your life goal. You rapid, instantaneous

forver listing for your friends — using friend-circles

dispersed. But it is getting worse. Reality TV has you fukers

up to a point, it has been ok; I could just turn around and you

regurgitated from Piers and Maranda. The famous among you

regular voices price my inner tranquillity, swaying you

Your shrill voices with no depth perception.

in front of me — and all — like daleks with no

bumper cars as if you are on a roller coaster. You walk

codekarmers draw my attention by driving like grandmas in

a weekend of bareback romping with the cheapest transsexual

akin to the burning sensation many of you freaks experience after

contempt I hold you dollops of vaginal discharge in.

You all know me — Buck Smallsy — and are well aware of the other

and I have I execute onto your expectation, puppy-like faces have

now become the most utilitarian focused moments of your lives.

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HSC: Trial By Media



HSC for sale: pupils buy marks

By Alex Serpo

On the 20th of June, *The Daily Telegraph* ran a story on the front page entitled 'HSC FOR SALE: Students buying top marks for tutor cheats'. I was somewhat surprised when I found a picture of one of my students on page two, his face neatly blotted out, on his way to see me three days prior. What followed this story was something of a 48-hour media frenzy. The *Telegraph* ran it as front-page news for two days, and subsequently wrote editorials. Both *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian* ran stories, as did *Today Tonight* and ABC's *PM* program.

to question the validity of these facts. In order to demonstrate how the media manipulate the truth, here are some facts dissected from the original story, which are completely false and had serious consequences:

One: Ricky Sutton's 20th June article states "The *Daily Telegraph* can reveal a teacher from a state-run high school has been earning up to \$5000 to do school work for pupils". This figure was likely constructed on the basis that HSC English runs for two years, and hypothetically if a student paid fifty dollars an hour for one tutoring session every week for the year for that time period they would have paid \$5000. Sutton's follow up article on the 21st stated "The HSC results of 261 students will be reviewed". By combining the total number of students at the centre with the hypothetical \$5000 figure we get a value of \$1,305,000. This is not my calculation; it was in fact done by the ATO (Australian Taxation Office), who wanted nearly three quarters of a million in missing tax money. By consequence a comprehensive audit was done and no money found. Therefore this figure can therefore be disputed on the basis of the ATO auditors.

Two: The Board of Studies, Universities or their respective schools would punish students who

means the ATA speaks for 0.25% of the industry. The ATA was also launched on the 7th of March this year, and so had been in existence for three months when the scandal broke. For a new, small time institution they did extremely well.

Four: The second significant part to the story was the student who was photographed. Ironically, the student photographed by the *Telegraph* was not a student of the accused teacher. He was, in fact, my student. The article itself also made accusations based primarily on 'Extension 2 English', a subject that involves the submission of an individual major project. According to Professor Arnold from The Board of Studies, cheating can be a problem [Quoted from Ricky Sutton's 22nd of June article] "Whenever there is a take-home component of an exam, [as] there is a risk of unethical practise". The student photographed did not do a course that involved any take-home component. By consequence of being recognized in this photograph, the long-time student of a prestigious boys' school was threatened with having his HSC revoked. His work was re-reviewed and he was told that if there were any significant changes in his marks further steps might be taken.

HSC FOR SALE

Students buying top marks from tutor cheats

EXCLUSIVE

By RICKY SUTTON

HUNDREDS of children have been able to buy their way into university in a cash-for-coursework scam being run by a Sydney teacher.

The Daily Telegraph can reveal a teacher from a state-run high school has been earning up to \$5000 to do school work for pupils.

The teacher's company is accused of failing to help more than 200 pupils win university places.

To one case, the agency took two pages of

rough notes written by a Year 12 pupil and converted them into a 32-page newsletter, which got 48 marks out of 60.

The teacher, the agency wrote four poems from scratch and got them in a pupil to enable her to get the UAI grades she needed to get into university.

The teacher or her agency is not regis-

tered with any tutoring organisation so is not subject to any controls or checking. The HSC examination is split into two components, coursework and assessments that make up 55 per cent, and an exam which constitutes the remainder. The BMW-driving teacher is paid up to

Normally I follow the news, but with this article for the first time I found myself on the other side of a story. Following this news story was made particularly interesting because of two things. Firstly, I was accused as both the plagiariser and the plagiarised, being both an ex-student and a current teacher, and also because my student was photographed and recognized in connection with the story. Secondly, for the first time in my experience I had substantially more inside information than the media could ever offer me.

I am a keen student of news media, but no amount of reading or studying news media could ever have taught me the lesson that I learnt from this particular issue. I was able to criticise every fact written by every journalist with one hundred percent accuracy and clarity. The result of this process was both startling and frightening. Firstly, a large amount of inaccurate or completely untrue information was reported as fact. Not only by *The Daily Telegraph*, but also by other major media outlets. No one outside the accused ever attempted

were attended the tutoring centre. Maralyn Parker wrote in a *Telegraph* editorial on the 22nd of June that "[There is] a very real possibility that the HSCs of those involved will be revoked and their UAI's reduced". When contacted, The Board of Studies confirmed more than a month after investigation that no student has had his or her HSC revoked in connection with the scandal.

Three: Almost every story associated with this

scandal mentioned that an association not registered with the Australian Tutoring Association (ATA) has no credibility. Specifically, Maralyn Parker on 21st of July: "Only use the services of a tutoring agency or tutor who is registered by the Australian Tutoring Association. Your child's future could depend on it." The ATA was also given free press in the *SMH*, on *Today Tonight*, and also as part of ABC's *PM* program. That's huge broad-spectrum positive press. Mohan Dhall claims there are 200 agencies registered with the ATA, out of an estimated "80 000" [Dhall on ABC's *PM*]. That

claims was astounding. Out of the 30 or 40 callers who I listened to, not a single one attempted to question whether the cheating claims were substantiated. One caller attempted to defend the tutors by attacking the state of the public school system. I was surprised to recognise his voice as a parent of one of the Year 8 students at the centre. However, a 100 angry parents crying blue murder soon overwhelmed his voice.

The important lesson I learned from this scandal was that the media lies to us, or presents information that is deliberately and consciously misleading. However, the opportunistic can get a free media ride if they are right side of a bad scandal. The sad truth is that as uninformed readers on the outside, we are unable to discern lies and exaggeration from the truth. When it comes to media, an open critical mind is an essential tool.

Information Series: Ethics



What are Ethics?

Ethics are guiding principles by which we may make important decisions or live our lives. Ethics are a fine thing and have always been encouraged, despite this fact, they remain at an historic low.

When are ethics used?

You may be surprised to find out, but your actions are probably affected by ethics on a semi-regular basis. Say for example a needy person without a home (a "street urchin") was to approach you and ask for your charity. If you handed them a small sum in coins (say, equivalent to five minutes of your working time), you would be taking this action based on a system of morals, or notions of what the "right thing to do" in a certain situation was. If on the other hand you had led them around the corner with promises of food, and then beaten them savagely with an iron pipe you had concealed on your person, this would not be considered, by most people, to be "ethical". In this context at least, the concept of ethics could be said to be an arbitrary one.

How can we know what is ethical?

This is a good question. In previous times, people had to go through the laborious process of figuring out what ethics were themselves. Luckily, modern society presents

a much more efficient alternative, in the form of ethics courses at universities. To my understanding, these teach you more or less all the ethics you will ever need in your life, and probably prepare you for a few hypothetical scenarios lest you encounter them. For example, what would YOU do in the following situation?

You and a young boy are sailing in a boat. A storm sweeps you out to sea, leaving you stranded for days. You are both slowly starving to death. It occurs to you that if you eat your young companion, you may live for several more days; however, if you do not, you will both be dead within the day. The idea of killing, let alone eating, a child repulses you, but on the other hand you acknowledge that by doing so you increase dramatically the chances of one person surviving rather than neither of you. What do you do?

The answer to this, not surprisingly, is that you shouldn't have gone out on a boat in a storm in the first place, you stupid moron. Except in the UTS ethics course, where it is recommended that you eat the child *before* you get in the boat.

If you don't have the benefit of a university education, another popular way of learning ethics is from certain religious scriptures. The general rule here is that, whatever the scripture suggests, you must do the exact opposite. For example, if the scripture suggests that killing people is unethical, you should try to kill as many people as possible, through as many avenues as possible. If your God turns litres upon litres of water into wine for a party, and drinks wine at his last supper, you should naturally conclude that it is unethical to drink alcohol. If anyone questions this logic, explain to them that you are only carrying out your God's will, and that there is a note explaining this rule in the back of the scriptures. Then, when their back is turned, kill them.

Did the Greek philosopher Aristotle write some interesting works on the nature of ethics?

Uh...probably.

Patrick Coyte

Intern Positions Available

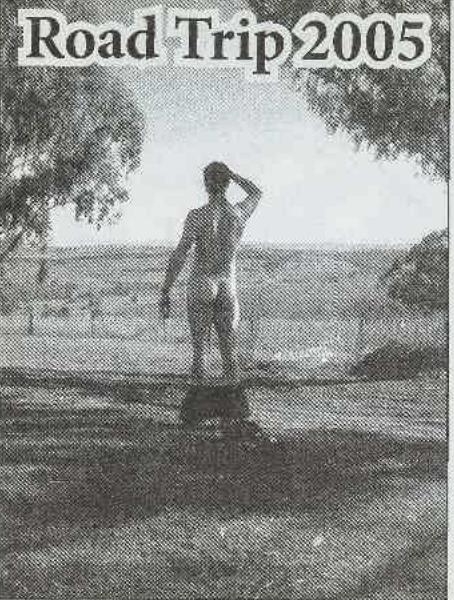
Tharunka is seeking interns for semester 2. We are looking for students who have a passion for:

**Writing
Editing
Graphic Design/Lay-up
Photography**



Tharunka will provide you with an opportunity to explore these skills by providing practical work experience in the area of media production.

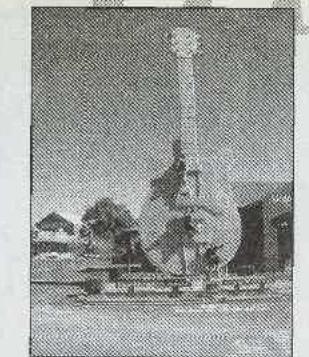
To apply for the intern programme send your resume to:
editor@guild.unsw.edu.au



By Andrew O'Loughlin, with thanks to Josh Milston and Brad Drew.

Braving a 4:30 am wake-up call, the three teams of the Foundation Day road trip; Team Volvo, New College and the Motherfucking Micekateers (MM) assembled below the Guild at 5:30 am awaiting instructions. They were simple; figure out where to go from the clues, take photos of where you go and get naked as often as possible.

Living up to their name, Team Volvo took an *Amazing Race* attitude to the competition and raced to the lead, maintaining it for much of the race. Their one low point of the first day came on their way to Newnes, where they managed to keep true to the Volvo spirit by getting bogged down in a river along the way. Luckily, some locals took pity on them and hauled them out. They were also the only team in which every member was willing to get naked anywhere, including outside



a country cop shop inside a cemetery and next to road kill. Super-team New College, with its eight members, were the most methodical of the teams, managing to get someone naked in just about every photo they took. In fact, the

whole team were very comfortable in their birthday suits, cruising past other teams in the College van with hardly a piece of clothing in sight. They were also the only team to manage to make it to Newnes. Which was just as well, as the old couple that owned the trout farm there kicked them off their property for trying to get naked in their shop. They ended the day by crashing the 21st birthday of a cotton farmer.

The MM was in third position at the start of the race and kept their hold on last spot for the entire day. This

was in part due to their decision to stop off at Macca's for half an hour for breakfast, taking advantage of the VUP (where the 'U' stood for unimportant) cards given

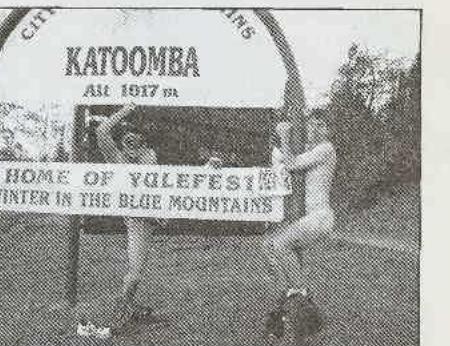
to each team. MM's position came close to improving at times, but it was not helped by their decision to climb half of the things they came across (naked), including clambering up one of the Three Sisters.

The second day saw all teams raring to go, with one



member of MM trying to gain extra points by jumping naked into the lake. Tarnworth saw most of the action that day, with both Team Volvo and New

getting naked in front of the famous Golden Guitar, whilst the MM decided to climb it (clothed). Some inter-team rivalry flared at this time, when the MM stole the clothes from one of the members of New. However, the clothes were returned soon after, partly due to an old lady going nuts at team MM.



It was at about this time that team Volvo managed to convince a crowd at the local football field to pose for a group photo, by telling them it was for charity. The con worked, with around 300 people getting in the shot. The MM looked to God instead, getting a group of Christians to pose with a semi-naked team member. The trip ended late in the evening, with everyone feeling tired and being very happy to get to bed.

Final Standings: 1st New College, 2nd Team Volvo and 3rd The Motherfucking Micekateers.

Free Speech or Freedom to Cheat?

By Andrew O'Loughlin

When it was reported back in July of this year that a journalist had been jailed for four months for refusing to name a source, it seemed as if it was just another example of the U.S. government restricting the freedom of the press. However, on closer inspection it appears as though the journalist incarcerated, Judith Miller, is protecting officials in the White House from prosecution for federal crimes, rather than protecting a whistleblower.

The lead-up to this story involves claims made by the Bush administration before its invasion of Iraq, that officials from Iraq had sought to buy Uranium from Niger. However, Joseph Wilson who had been to Niger to investigate the claims stated in an opinion piece in July 2003, that the Bush administration had "twisted" and "exaggerated" the evidence concerning Iraq's nuclear program. Eight days later, Robert Novak - a conservative columnist - revealed that Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, was a CIA operative. Revealing the identity of such a person is a federal crime.

Investigations were begun to determine who had revealed the identity of Ms Plame to Novak. It was divulged by Novak that his sources were "senior administration officials". Although at least publicly he did not name who the senior people were, it was reported later that senior Bush officials leaked the details of Plame's employment as revenge for Wilson's attack on the White House.

Judith Miller was believed to have interviewed officials within the administration in relation to Ms Plame's employment as a CIA operative. The prosecution's interest in getting her to testify is that Miller interviewed those that committed the crime of revealing Plame's identity. However, Ms Miller consistently refused to give evidence before a grand jury, citing her journalistic obligation not to reveal her sources.

The special prosecutor in the case disagreed with this line of argument. He claimed that if an attorney (barrister) found themselves in a similar situation, they would "be compelled to testify if their client communicates to [them], for the purpose of committing a crime". In addition to this, the prosecutor pointed out that "the conduct of the officials involved an attack on an administration critic, not whistle-blowing". In other words, Miller was protecting criminals, rather than

those who were bringing attention to a crime.

Ms Miller has a history of writing poorly sourced articles in support of the Bush administration. Examples of this are the stories Miller wrote in *The New York Times* in the lead-up to the war on Iraq in 2003. A year later, *The New York Times* admitted that ten articles Miller had written or co-written contained "information that was controversial [and was] allowed to stand unchallenged". In addition to this, whilst stationed in Iraq just after the conventional stage of the war had subsided, she claimed that the elusive weapons of mass destruction (WMD) had been found. This later turned out to be false.

The jailing of Miller has created controversy in the US with a number of journalists condemning the ruling and arguing that it infringes on their first amendment right to free speech and the free press in general. However, there are a number of journalists who argue that Miller's case is different in that she is protecting those in power, rather than exposing the truth. As journalist Will Bunch explains, "She has been protecting [the Bush administration], advancing their objectives, and helping them to mislead a now very afflicted American public". The courts seem decided on Miller's fate in this matter, but her reputation and the fate of certain 'senior officials' in the Bush administration remains to be seen.

REVENGE OF THE CLOWN

The absurdity of content censorship

By Xavier O'Halloran (your local free-thinking, liberal, smut-peddler)

The Australian Office of Film and Literature Classification (AOFLC) have recently revoked the classification of arguably one of the most violent games on the market: *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* (GTA: SA). This effectively bans the sale, rental and advertisement of GTA: SA. However, the level of violence had nothing to do with the classification revocation. Instead the ban was placed on the game because once modded* the game unlocks the potential to simulate sex.

The modification known as 'hot coffee' can be downloaded over the internet and installed into the game, thus altering the outcome of a date with your simulated girlfriend. Instead of the harmless innuendo of your character being invited into his girlfriend's house for some 'hot coffee' this mod allows the gamer to rock back-and-forth or change positions in the throws of passion. As you may have gathered from the pictures, the sex scene displays your character as if fully clothed, while your girlfriend has all the genitalia of a Barbie doll.

"your girlfriend has all the genitalia of a Barbie doll"

The publisher of the game, Rockstar Games, initially denied that they had placed the content in the game, instead blaming the modders** for the nudie scene. It was later revealed that Rockstar had placed the content in the game but decided against keeping it in the final release version, so had made the scene unplayable. "We didn't want it in the final version," clarified company rep Rodney Walker. "So we followed the industry practice of breaking up the code and hiding it."

Expectedly, the discovery of sex in GTA: SA has led to outrage in the community and has come under attack from high profile American politicians like Senator Hilary Clinton, who successfully advocated for the game to be given an adults only rating in the United States.

What is perhaps the most bizarre twist to this story is that the focus has been on the rather innocuous sex scene, while the majority of the game consists of carjacking, murder, running prostitutes, drug dealing and gun running. You can literally stab a prostitute in the back of the neck then incinerate her corpse with a flamethrower and only get a MA15+ rating from the AOFLC. But as soon as there is some low level nudity in the form of



animated humping, the game gets banned.

It is unsurprising that the United States, a country founded on war and with a puritanical past and a current rise of the political Religious Right, would be bent out of shape by animated breasts while ignoring hardcore violence. What is surprising however, is that Australian authorities have banned the game rather than simply reclassifying it for an older audience. The British classification body on the other hand have kept their initial 18+ rating.

You might be asking yourself what kinds of criteria the AOFLC use when deciding to revoke the classification of a game or movie? In this case the Classification Board of the AOFLC revoked the classification on the grounds that the game "...contains contentious material (whether activated through use of a code or otherwise) that was not brought to the Board's attention ... before the classification was made; and if the Board had been aware of the material before the classification was made, it would have given the film or game a different classification."

While on the first count Rockstar maybe guilty as charged the second charge, being that if the Board had been aware of the material before classification, it would have given the game a different classification is a little more tenuous. So in the interest of being thorough, and in order to test the consistency of the Classification Board, *Tharunka* decided to compare the modded game to the classification of movies that also achieved an MA15+. The *Tharunka* patented slap and tickle test will be used (slap = violence, tickle = sex/nudity)

American Pie (All of them): Plenty of tickle, very little slap.
Team America: World Police: Both slap and tickle (extra deleted tickle on the DVD).
Starship Troopers: Slap and tickle.

This list of three movies proves unequivocally that not only does *Tharunka* [this writer -Ed.] have very bad taste in movies but they have completely oversimplified the classification process with a bizarre testing method.

Pixel perverts will be disappointed to hear that Rockstar are currently developing a 'clean' version of the game minus the 'hot coffee' in order to get their game back on the market in Australia and to regain their original rating in other countries.

*Modding: A process by which the game can be modified to unlock features that were not intended to be part of the game upon its original release.

**Modders: People who modify games (Nothing to do with Mod Rock or the Mod movement in general)

HackASS

HackASS does Sexpo

Greetings groupies and passionate fans! Today, I'm going to tell you about a grand event that occurred in my career as a Superhero-Stuntmaster extraordinaire. I was given the task to do a 'Special Report' for *Tharunka*, the esteemed paper for which I write my escapades. The job: to interview the esteemed and incredibly attractive film actress, *Silvia Sarni*. Of course, I was worried that there would be problems with this interview. I mean, how was I to stop this incredible beauty from devouring me? Still, I have experience in fending off incredible beauties and so I went to the expo with seduction on my mind.

However, on arrival at the expo located at Fox Studios, I found that I could not enter it without paying a \$25 fee. I was shocked. I may be a Superhero, but I'm a student Superhero. It did occur to me, though, that forcing my way would not endear me to *Syria*, and so I handed over the cash to the obviously near-sighted female cashier who didn't check me out even once.

When I entered I was amazed and surprised to see an extraordinary number of stores selling fake penises, videos and handcuffs. There were also a lot of attractive females there. For a moment, it reminded me of remedial maths. I couldn't work it out. Then, like a body of water in one of my stunts, it hit me. This was a place for men who had broken or damaged their penises. It also explained all the good-looking women walking around the place. They wanted the men to feel as comfortable as possible in this unfortunate situation. But I still couldn't figure out what the handcuffs were for.

Whilst taking a break outside, I noticed some rather attractive women standing near some poles. One of them was spinning with her legs entwined around it, whilst the others were handing out posters to men who were gathering around to watch. Knowing that I was better looking than the girl on the pole and wanting to start picking up at this place, I started to spin around on a vacant pole nearby. Sure enough, women and gay males soon flocked to watch me grind the pole [hummm... – Ed.]. Suddenly, I saw the figure from the pole marching towards me. She was either really upset that I had stolen her thunder, or she couldn't resist me. It was the latter. I found out later that this woman was known as *Nood Sydknee*.

After my dance with *Miss Sydknee*, I continued my hunt for *Silvia*. Suddenly, a giant penis and a pair of breasts materialised before my eyes. At first, I thought I was dreaming [again – Ed.]. However, I was surprisingly wrong. For instead of the familiar wet feeling I was used to getting, I was stuck between the giant penis and breasts instead. It was the first time in my life that I have encountered a penis almost as big as mine. Unfortunately, combined with the breasts I was no match for the power of these two creatures. Jammed between them, I was led to *Penis Man*. He was a frightening sight. His body was covered with small penises. Actually, I felt a bit sorry for him. Imagine having to go out in public like that, with nothing bigger than eight inches. Life sometimes just isn't fair.



IS DR FRASER

By James Nguyen

twofire@gmail.com

Fraser's racist assertions

By this stage, you must all be aware of the comments made by Associate Professor Andrew Fraser in the media. If not, Fraser wants to stop immigration into Australia for all races except those of white background. The reasons he gives for this are

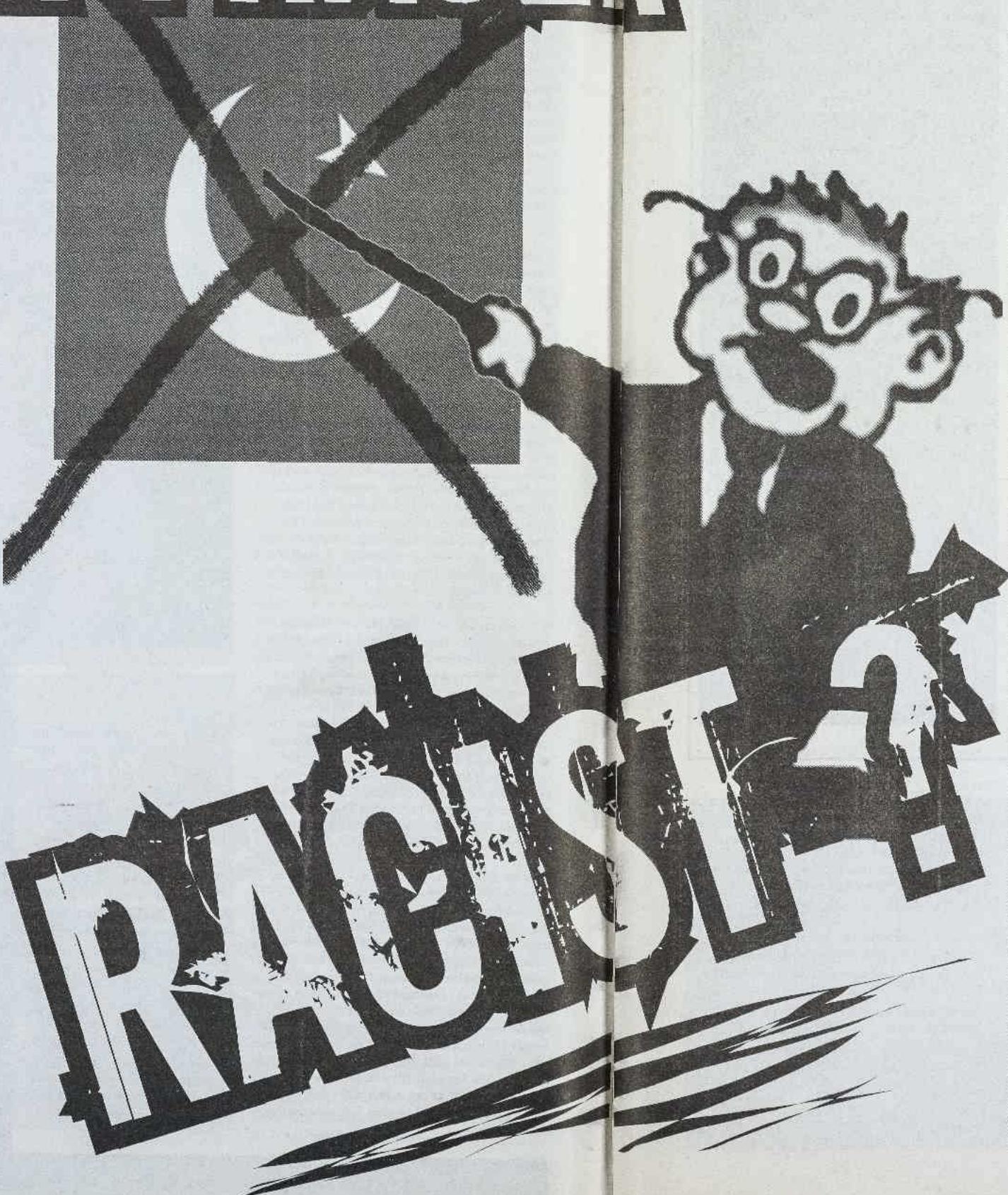
- Africans apparently have a lower IQ on average lower than that of Caucasians; and
- a strong Asian-Australian attendance in law schools is essentially bad for Australia.

IQ standard

Assuming that it is even acceptable to deny people of lower IQs entry into Australia (which it is not—this is dealt with later), the apparent study on Africans and their intellectual capability is rubbish. One's IQ is not only biological, but is heavily influenced by one's environment. Africa is far less developed and fortunate than Australia in many aspects, including education. I will bet my life that if they were given a chance to attend an Australian school that Africans will be as smart as anyone. Many of the world's most intelligent and influential people are African Americans. I shouldn't need to refer to examples, but Colin Powell, for instance, has an IQ of around 165.

But this is beside the point. Just because someone's IQ is lower than some standard does not mean that we should shun them. Everyone is an individual and should be given a chance to prove themselves. If we take Fraser's argument, then why don't we shun or even remove other Australians who are of lower intellectual ability? This is clearly unacceptable just as it is to deny anyone entry into Australia who is lacking in IQ points.

If you think it is justifiable to say that Africans should not be allowed into Australia because they have low IQs, then how is it any different to exclude women from the workplace because they are child bearers and there is a risk that they may not be able to dedicate themselves to their occupation. You cannot. It is about simple fairness, dignity and respect for fellow human beings.



Too many Asians!

If IQ is so important to the professor, if Asian-Australians have studied and earned their place in law school, why is he complaining? Fraser seems to be contradicting himself when he complains that the low IQ of Africans will bring down Australia, yet goes on to complain that Asian-Australians are out-performing others and will therefore bring Australia down.

An article in the Sydney Morning Herald says this of Fraser's arguments: "[i]t seems, in Fraser's view, refugees and other immigrants not of Anglo-Celtic stock just can't win. They are either not intelligent enough or too intelligent by far" (Gerard Henderson, 'Speaking out of turn is not free speech' 2 August 2005, see link: <http://smh.com.au/news/opinion/speaking-out-of-turn-is-not-free-speech/2005/08/01/1122748579322.html>).

Moreover and more importantly, who is to say that Asian-Australians will ruin Australia if they reach the rank of judge? Why are Asian-Australians so different to Anglo-Australians? They are brought up in the same environment, go to the same schools, drink the same water, sing the same anthem, and have allegiance to Australia. Why then are Asian-Australians such a threat to Australia if they work hard, master the law and are awarded the rank of judge? Fraser's argument is nonsense.

Comments in a private vs professional capacity—Academic free speech?

Some justify Fraser's comments by asserting that one's views and comments made in a private capacity are separable from one's professional role. Firstly, I recommend that you read the abovementioned article from the Sydney Morning Herald. This passage is of particular relevance:

"In his letter to the *Parramatta Sun*, Fraser evoked his academic title and his university appointment in an apparent attempt to give authority to his views on criminology, Australian history and psychology - concerns in which he has no particular expertise. In a poorly written statement which he issued on July 29, Fraser even saw fit to proclaim the merits of the White Australia Policy. This is a long way from public law."

Hung Le observes that you may form your own opinion of what is right and wrong and what to believe or not, but how often do you, as a student, walk into a lecture with the view to judge what your lecturer says and decide whether to believe it? Generally, students have insufficient prior knowledge of the subject, which often means they accept the lecturer's word as correct. (Hung Le) I note that although there is room for different opinions in a classroom, what is important to note is that academics' views are generally accepted as fact by the vast majority of people. Hung Le further observes:

"You must also take into account that not everyone in Australia benefits from sufficient education to be able to make informed decisions and I'm sure the arguments of a university lecturer have considerably more weight than that of the average Joe. Who would you believe when they are stating 'facts'—the lecturer or the janitor who empties the bins?"

Henry Kim makes another point that "it is artificial to draw a distinction between opinions in the class room and outside it. If he has a racist opinion outside the classroom it would be highly unlikely that this would not affect his judgment in the treatment of his students."

Fraser argued that there are too many Asian-Australian students in law school and that this will be dire for Australia. Fraser is a law professor. How can this not impact his teaching and assessment of his Asian-background law students? And any argument of objectivity is rubbish, because it is a simple fact that we are all swayed by their values and judgment.

Just because you're an academic does not mean you are allowed to be a racist. Academics are part of this world too. They cannot simply say what they want as though in an academic vacuum. What you say has repercussions. I concede that academics have a right to speak and tell the truth as a result of bona fide, properly researched studies. Though he may say that Africans have lower IQs (which he may find as a result of his studies, which I would highly doubt would be feasible and can in turn be refuted) he cannot say, consequently, that Africans should be excluded from Australia. This conclusion is not only a rash one to make, but most importantly, it goes into the realm of human dignity and respect, which is more important than the black and white results of a study.

We are not dealing with the laws of gravity. We are dealing with human beings.

Guild constitution change

Amidst the flurry of boys in pink dresses, semi-naked New College residents, and general Foundation Day silliness, the UNSW Student Guild attempted to conduct a general meeting to change its constitution.

It was however unable to pass the proposed changes, after quorum could not be established. Students were offered beer vouchers and doughnuts as incentive to vote at the general meeting, which was to put forth changes ranging from reducing the Guild's fixed cost expenditure to introducing new positions into Guild Council.

"We had the right number of people, but they kept coming and going - and for quorum, you need 270 people at the particular time... and we couldn't maintain that, which was very unfortunate," said Guild Secretary/Treasurer, Gulsam Ahmed.

He also admitted that bad timing was probably the reason that the meeting was unsuccessful, as well as the absence of those who had aided in the consultative process and who were simply unable to make it. Mr. Ahmed states that the need to alter the Constitution is a necessity.

"The constitution stipulates fixed expenditure that the Guild faces. For example, the honorarium for each Office Bearer is calculated based on fixed proportions. We have somewhere between 10 and 20 OBs that are paid on this basis, and it represents a significant fixed cost. This system was devised on the assumption that the Guild receives a fixed income through compulsory fees, but if we have non-compulsory fees, then your priorities regarding whom you pay and how much you pay them changes."

Currently, the Guild spends over \$200,000 on honoraria, which Mr. Ahmed claims is unaffordable and must be reduced. The new constitution will stipulate that some people be paid through the fixed proportion system, and others are paid within a variable band. This

would mean that the number of people who are being paid fixed amounts is less, and the total fixed cost that the Guild incurs goes down. The University has also expressed that it would look towards merging student organisations sometime in the future. A provision for this was part of the constitutional change as well. The other proposed changes include introduction of grievance procedures to ensure that every member would be able to benefit from the Guild, and the establishment of proportional representation.

In the present Guild Council, whichever party wins elections attains majority representation. It is proposed that in the future, irrespective of who wins, unless they get 50% or over, majority on Council is not automatic.

"This way, Council is more representative. We would also like to introduce a Disability Officer position," explained Mr. Ahmed.

So who devised these changes? Mr. Ahmed reveals that suggestions were sought from students and Office Bearers alike. According to Mr. Ahmed, the current constitution allows for amendments to be made to motions to be considered at a General Meeting. While the General Meeting allows people to make amendments, the Referendum does not. However, the GM is at a specific time, and many people cannot attend, whereas a referendum can be structured to allow as many people as possible to vote.

Mr. Ahmed considers it important that "this constitution allow the future Guild enough flexibility to continue to ensure that students have representation and advocacy on campus, and to achieve that by adopting whatever form might prove necessary".

Considering the failure of the General Meeting, the Guild has now switched its tack and is holding a referendum. And yes, confectionery of some sort will still be given away.

Mansha Tandon

Notice of Referendum:

The Guild will be holding a referendum to accept its new Constitution. The proposed motion for consideration is: "That the current Constitution be repealed and replaced with the new Constitution".
Manoj Dias-Abey/Gulsam Ahmed

ALL VOTERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE DOUGHNUT AND SOFT DRINK

A copy of the new constitution is available at: www.studentguild.unsw.edu.au/newconstitution.pdf

You can vote at the following places on the following dates:

Tuesday, 30th of August

8:30am – 9:30am: MAIN WALKWAY
8:30am – 9:30pm: GATE NINE
11:30am – 2:30pm: QUAD LAWN
11:30am – 2:30pm: LIBRARY LAWN
11:30am – 2:30pm: CENTRAL LECTURE BLOCK
4pm – 6pm: MAIN WALKWAY
5pm – 7pm: LIBRARY LAWN

Wednesday, 31st of August

8:30am – 9:30am: MAIN WALKWAY
11:30am – 2:30pm: QUAD LAWN
11:30am – 2:30pm: LIBRARY LAWN
11:30am – 2:30pm: BIOMED LAWN
4pm – 6pm: MAIN WALKWAY

Thursday, 1st of September

8:30am – 9:30am: MAIN WALKWAY
8:30am – 9:30am: GATE 9
11:30am – 2:30pm: QUAD LAWN
11:30am – 2:30pm: LIBRARY LAWN
11:30am – 2:30pm: RED CENTRE
4pm – 6pm: MAIN WALKWAY

Why You Shouldn't Sit Down in the Middle of the Road. Anti-VSU Rally 10 August 2005

There are lots of darn good reasons to sit in the middle of the road but few can be justified by an individual in a sound mental state. In fact, one could even make the case that sitting on a road is downright silly and generally unadvisable. This is especially the case when such 'sitters' happen to be a large group of excitable students and said road is Sydney's George Street.

Unfortunately, today I found myself amongst a group of around 2,000 students taking a seat on the cold hard asphalt of Sydney Towne. This worries me, retrospectively, for a number of reasons. Firstly, various modes of travel make

use of Sydney's roads, up to and including horses and open-topped jeeps, neither of which I would use if I had the choice. My point is that people, cars, buses, horses and jeeps leave all kinds of muck on the tarmacadam that I don't want to be transferred to my person.

Secondly, and most importantly, two thousand students holding a good ol' fashioned sit-in detracts most obviously from the purpose of today's peaceful rally. Not only do the public at large have their negative assumptions about student activists confirmed, but an afternoon of organised speeches (off the road) went to waste. The National Union of Students has worked hard since the beginning of the year to shape a campaign that would bring VSU into the public arena of debate and raise students' awareness of this critical piece of

legislation. A display like today's of a bunch of over-enthusiastic students leading the rest in the wrong direction (quite literally) has quite possibly jeopardised our previously co-operative relationship with the Police and therefore the next rally planned for the 23rd August.

Quick thinking meant that most of my fellow UNSW students promptly removed themselves from the highly unhygienic road and comforted ourselves with cold beer and hot pies. The seriousness of the issue stands and we should all consider the future of our university and how very different it could be under Voluntary Student Unionism, and stay off the road.

Petra Gulicher

CRICKET STICKS

By Mansha Tandon

Mommy, where did I come from?

Greetings to friends, enemies
and hangers-on...

Why not inaugurate this session
with a clichéd yet pleasant rhetorical
discussion on ethnicity and assimilation
at cross-purposes? This is not a graphic
tutorial on sexual reproduction (I'm
looking at you, Mr. Engineering).

Over the winter break, I went overseas
to visit my family. The fortnight was
punctuated with lectures/shouting matches,
five-star hotel meals, and lectures/shouting
matches AT five-star hotel meals. The
reason for the tension: I had become 'too
true blue'. I had forsaken my middle-
class Indian humility and perseverance
for a stubbie and a penchant for sickies.
Academic excellence in my Commerce
degree had been replaced by mediocrity,
and I now felt that even if I don't graduate
with a distinction average, I'll be okay.
I was a version of the classic case of an
American Born Confused Desi (ABCD).

I argued that I could have opted not to
pursue Commerce/Medicine/Computer
Science even if I had chosen to stay in
India, and that my grades could have nose-
dived back in the Motherland as well. But
as I sat out on the verandah on a Sunday,
listening to my father, while he sipped his
tea and prepared a presentation for work;
I realised that this was a man who had
worked like a dog his entire life so that
he could take us to Australia and obtain
citizenship. My Australian passport has
given me the privilege of a better standard
of living, which even some professionals
in India are not privy to. It has enabled
me to get by with average marks, and to
tread off the beaten path by dreaming
of a career in media and journalism. In
India, universities churn out boat loads
of excellent journalists. The lucky ones
start their careers at respected newspapers
with a meagre \$300 per month salary
and work their way up. I am too scared
to imagine what happens to the rest.

If you think you have a solution to
the author's problems, (please) email
her at munch@guild.unsw.edu.au.

My parents observe the change in me
with caution: I speak in an Australian
accent when not around them; beer
has replaced tea as my drink of
choice, I live with three Australians
from the Western suburbs, and I
wholeheartedly love Australia. But
it is also true that I break out into
Hindi mid-sentence, I start the day
listening to morning ragas played
on the sitar, and I'm cheap as hell.

This throws up a few questions: have
I really become more Aussie, or do I
feel indebted to Australia for giving
me the opportunity I may never
have had back home? Am I letting
assimilation quietly force itself upon
me? Should I abandon the values
of the home country that is the
inspiration for much of my writing?
Should young ethnic Australians
honour their parents and work
towards a relatively problem free career
path or delve into professions such
as acting, film making and writing?

I don't have the answers (What?
You thought I was going to come up
with some insight?) – but I know one
thing. At an Australia vs. India cricket
match, I'm going to wear that ugly sky
blue jersey and paint my face saffron,
white and green; even as I clutch a
tepid Tooheys Old (always Old) and
chomp on a sausage roll. Then I'll
shout till I'm hoarse when India scores
a boundary. Even as I grapple with
issues pertaining to identity and where
I call home, one thing is clear: my
children sure are going to be fucked.



University Unveils Master Plan

By Alex Serpe

The University 'Master Plan', also known as 'Campus 2020', is now in its final stages. The future development plan is currently being put to council approval, and outlines the entire future development of UNSW over the next 15 years. The University commissioned the 'Master Plan' in 1994 in order to supersede the 'UNSW Strategic Plan 2005'. The purpose of the plan is "to provide the physical environment in which the university can achieve its goals", which in turn are "to be Australia's leading international research university with a reputation for excellence in scholarship, learning and student experience". The plan covers campus development, housing and transport as well as a range of minor issues including sustainability and environmental considerations. Currently in progress as part of the plan is the construction of the "Western Car Park" (along the main walkway) as well as the refitting of the Heffron (Chemistry cum Law) and construction of the analytical centre (attached to applied science). The remaining changes principally involve a major campus makeover combined with transport changes.

In 2005 there were 32,802 students enrolled on campus at UNSW, with an average decrease of nearly 6% per annum since 2003. In order to combat this, the 'Master Plan' includes a campus makeover with the aforementioned construction. This will hopefully improve the currently questionable aesthetic of UNSW (see project opportunities below). These changes include the creation of "Knowledge Clusters and Hubs",

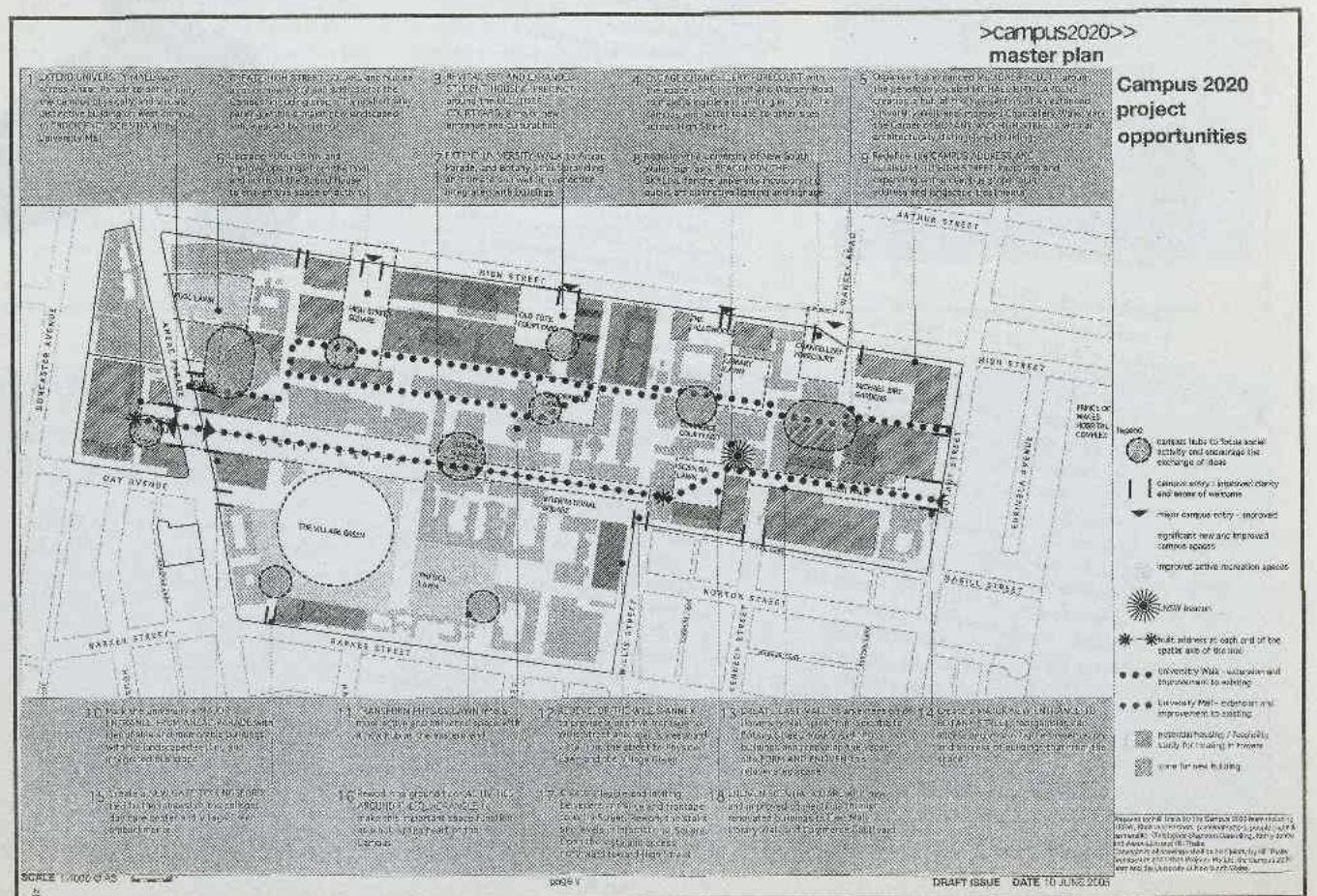
centres around the university where students accumulate to exchange ideas and information, such as the library lawn and Esme's. Along with this, the plan proposes to improve "Legibility", or the access and space logic of UNSW.

Along with the physical changes to UNSW's physical environment comes a major transport overhaul. The 'Master Plan' recommends various measures to reduce the number of people driving amount of student housing within walking distance of the campus. There is also a tentative recommendation for a light rail to be built which runs directly to the campus within fifteen years.

ccess to the university. Currently, 245 buses per hour at peak time service the university. The plan recommends that the University, in conjunction with STA, increase both the number and efficiency of these buses. Along with this, bicycle access will be improved as well as the amount of student housing within walking distance of the campus. There is also a tentative recommendation for a light rail to be built which runs directly to the campus within fifteen years.

The University's 'Master Plan' provides many on-campus practical and aesthetic changes that will be of great value to future students. Unfortunately, the majority of current students will never see these changes and will be inconvenienced by the construction in the meantime. One student, a combined Chemistry/Law major, complained that both his faculties were being refurbished, but in four years he would see neither new building and would be around only for all the construction. Likewise, the transport changes, along with the hypothetical light rail will dramatically improve access to UNSW. However, students will have to wait fifteen years in order to see these changes come into effect, and in the meantime students who drive will face increased fees with a decrease in the amount of available parking. While the 'Campus 2020 Master Plan' will bring future changes and will likely benefit all future students, we will all have to suffer in the meantime.

All facts in this article were taken from 'Campus 2020, The Master Plan' written by Christopher Stapleton Consulting, Pty Ltd.



FOUNDATION DAY



By Alex Serpo

When my little brother was four years old, he asked me if rain was God pissing down on us. After much consideration, I replied: "Yes." According to a stumbling New College student, Foundation Day is "all about drinking over breakfast." When it rained on the morning of Foundation Day, I figured God, like New College, must have been drinking over breakfast. This caused the Guild to spend an alleged two thousand dollars on an emergency rain tent that was erected just as the sun came out. Evidently

God has a sense of humour.



Notwithstanding the early divine intoxication, as well as the useless tent, Foundation Day began with a bang. There was music and celebration all around. Hardy Giles (Giles Hardy), and Michael Chamberlin both attempted to pump some humour into the swarming drunken masses. Picking up Chamberlin from the airport, I found him something of a sullen character, and this attribute was unaided by the fact that he confessed to previously having a "big night". I was surprised to watch him step on stage, begin bursting with energy, and then return to a quiet reproachful self when he stepped off.

The masses seemed to respond better to music than comedy however, and as the sun brightened, so did the atmosphere. Rastawookie got a group jumping and dancing, and the partying reached full swing. Soon there was a huge line for the bar that would continue throughout the day. Masses of cross-dressed boys emerging from Goldstein added colour to the festivities.

Despite the stage schedule running two hours late,

The Androids played for the best part of an hour. Even missing the two traditional Judges, the Guild and Union Presidents, the Scavenger Hunt judging went on at 3pm. Prior to the surprise items, the New College Team was in the lead by nearly a thousand points, launching ahead with *Tharimka* being mentioned on Richard Mercer's "Love Song Dedications". The two teams fought hard for first place, with Panda Death Club winning best interpretive dance while New College took out the song contest. Longest armpit hair traded places several times, finally ending with Panda Death Club. Best Dave Hume look alike went to New College, and both teams managed to smoke pubic hair in a bong. The scores were looking close with the competition finale of most naked people on stage. I was informed while on stage that the police would arrest anyone who got completely naked on stage, although one cop reportedly said "it's ok if they're chicks". After being surrounded by masses of semi-naked entrants, the Scavenger Hunt was awarded to New College. This was lucky, as a decision otherwise may have ended in a riot. In fact, the bar staff closed the bar an hour early due to an enormous amount of reportedly already-drunk patrons.

After the festivities I went to interview David Uncle, the New College entrant who engineered the winning Foundation Day stunt. The stunt involved doing a letter drop to about 400 houses in Vaucluse, informing residents they were only allowed to use their water on every second

day. According to Uncle, "we put a bunch of water-saving ideas on the back... and if you didn't comply there would be hefty fines." The Stunt hit the media first thing the next day, with the Sydney Morning Herald, The Daily Telegraph and NOVA 969 news all doing stories. Uncle also stated, "I left my phone number on top of the letterhead, with a voicemail message saying: 'Hi, you have reached Sydney Water. All our operators are busy at the moment. Leave your number and a short message and we'll get back to you at our earliest convenience'."

Unfortunately, through the phone number, Sydney Water were able to trace the prank and New College was caught. Uncle said that "Sydney Water got in contact with the Dean,

saying we know it's not too serious. If he can go down and do a letter drop for us, and show us all the houses he went to, we'll let him off. I had to do it last weekend [week before Foundation Day]. As a consequence, I missed the road trip." Second Prize Stunt went to an anonymous entrant that placed banners throughout Sydney University praising UNSW. Unfortunately, the signs were taken down by 9am.

The dance party kicked off around 8pm and ran till late. Apart from a fire being lit in one of the Quadrangle garbage bins and giant queues due to a security shortage, it reportedly went off without a hitch. When asked about the day, Guild President Major Dus-Abey noted "anything that could go wrong, did go wrong." However this reporter can humbly say, despite the setbacks, I and everyone I spoke to had a hell of a lot of fun.



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NOTICES

The financial position of the Student Guild: A breakdown

The Student Guild's expenditure can be roughly divided into five main areas, these are:

1. Wages and Salaries:

The current administration, upon taking office, voted to reduce Office Bearer Honouraria and this dropped the full time officer's wage from \$24,880 to \$24,000. This has resulted in a saving of around \$870 mid-way through the year.

The new enterprise agreement has raised Staff Wages by around 5%, and this has cost the Guild close to \$12,000.

2. Departmental expenditure:

All departments are either under budget, or very close to their mid-year budgeted figures. The collective effect of this is expenditure being \$53,000 less than budgeted.

3. Subsidies:

The Guild pays close to \$200,000 per annum by way of subsidies. This includes the National Union of Students (\$140,000), Contact (\$9,000), General Donations (\$7,000) and Childecare (\$35,000). These are largely fixed, so we do not expect much of a reduction on estimates, although there may well be some.

4. Administration:

We have cut \$10,000 from administrative costs. It would have been less but for the refurbishments and incompetence of the previous administration (see my office bearer report).

5. Investment:

We need to prepare the Guild for VSTU, and as a result we expect to spend a lot of money on vital infrastructure and other one off costs. We have updated our budget to reflect this, and a more detailed report will be provided later. The reason for it being provided later will also be explained later.

Overall, we are doing very well. See my office bearer report for details. As a point of reference, last year's crappy administration outspent us by \$30,000 at this midway point. They also did less. We did more with less. The best example of this is *Tharunka* this year, which has been of higher quality and has cost us exactly ~~HALF~~ of what last year's *Tharunka* cost. If you recall, last year's *Tharunka* was about as popular as the guy from *The Corrs*.

Seeking THIRD PLUS GENERATION AUSTRALIAN BORN CHINESE for PhD research on Chinese Identity

PhD research student seeks to interview Australian born Chinese who are third generation or more (i.e. people born in Australia and either one of the parents was born in Australia). The interview will involve discussions concerning family migration history, links maintained with place of origin, and sense of identity/belongingness. The interview session will be audio taped and last for approximately 1.5 hours. Contact Lucille Ngan, UNSW School of Sociology and Anthropology by email at: L.ngan@student.unsw.edu.au

LAW REVUE

There are many stories from the land of Canberra. The worst is about to be told.

In Week 5, the Science Theatre will be engulfed by eternal winter for the 29th annual Law Revue - *The Chronicles of Canberra: The Liar, the Bitch, and the Xenophobe*.

It is a crucial year for students' interests and this year's Law Revue promises to impress as it tackles students' issues and topics from around the world in the only way they know how: with humour. But they won't be pulling any punches. "To us, university is about more than just a degree, it's about a life outside the classroom that prepares you socially and culturally for the real world, and that is something that can't be quantified easily," says Joshua Brandon, one of this year's directors. That said; this year's Revue team has been especially careful to keep the humour accessible. "People needn't worry about hearing esoteric jokes about tutors and lecturers that 80% of the audience haven't heard of," says Brandon. "We promise a show that's relevant, controversial, and above all, obviously funny."

The show runs from Tuesday August 23 - Friday August 26 and starts at 7:45pm. Tickets are \$8/\$12 on Tuesday and Wednesday and \$10/\$15 on Thursday and Friday, with discounts available for groups of 10+. Tickets will be on sale between 12-2pm on the Library Lawn every day in Weeks 4 and 5, at the door, and also via SMS on 0434 208 586

Spocksoc AGM

Date: Friday 26th of August (Week 5)

Location: Civil Engineering G001

Time: During screening (starts 6pm)

Orthodox Christian Fellowship AGM

Date: Thursday 18th of August (Week 4)

Location: Quadrangle building Room 1007
(East wing, near Student Guild office)

Time: 12 - 1pm

Orthodox Christian Fellowship is for anyone! It is for those who want to investigate issues, which are interesting and relevant to them. It is for those who are interested in learning about Orthodox Christianity. It is also for those who want to meet people and have fun! Anyone interested should attend the AGM.

NUTS is celebrating its 20th year of existence with a party to end all parties! Come along and celebrate 20 years of student theatre at UNSW with past NUTters and members of the UNSW and Theatre community. Wednesday September 7th (Week 7) 7pm, Roundhouse. For more information or to book tickets please email birthday@nnts.org.au

Postgrad Profile: Katherine Carroll, PhD student, Medical Sociology

Katherine Carroll is undertaking a Sociology PhD in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine and is a member for the Centre for Clinical Governance Research in Health (CCGRH). CCRH is a centre of the Faculty of Medicine and focuses on social science research in health settings.

Katherine trained initially as a Physiotherapist and worked in Melbourne, rural Victoria, Sydney and Christchurch. Katherine 'found' Sociology as a final year physio student and undertook a BA through Open Learning Australia (OLA). She was enamoured of her OLA experience. 'I found OLA a most professional and supportive organisation that allowed me to undertake a course that I loved and that I would not otherwise have been able to do,' she said. 'I have since found that the OLA courses are equal to those offered on-campus. It was a wonderful experience and I look forward to returning something to them one day.' Katherine undertook Honours at La Trobe University and was awarded first class Honours for her thesis, *Infant breast feeding philosophies and the emerging profession of lactation consultants in Australia*.

She remembers her parents saying that university 'would blow your mind'. 'Physio certainly didn't,' she said. 'What did blow my mind was encountering a sociology text during a casual browse in a public library in Melbourne. I knew I'd found what I'd been looking for in education. Sociology is a display of wonderful minds. It's a luxury - although it shouldn't be. Katherine hastens to add - 'to be able to think for the sake of thinking. I feel blessed to have three years of fully funded time to think critically about issues and contribute to new knowledge about the sociology of health.'

Katherine is on an APA scholarship, funded by the ARC, to look at clinician identity and health reform in multi-disciplinary teams, using among other methods Video Ethnography. She is enjoying her fieldwork, which she has been undertaking in an Intensive Care Unit, and is excited about being on the other side of fence 'to be able to critically analyse the world of which I was once a part.' Katherine loves doing multiple laps of Centennial Park on her beloved bike. Deciding where to live was easy. 'I chose to live in IH. I thrive on the cultural diversity. My bike and the diverse people I meet help me to survive and thrive on the roller coaster of a PhD.'



AUSTRALIA SET TO BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL FRINGE DWELLER IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

By Geoff Capelin
Postgraduate Advocate

The Government's new legislation regarding the operation of Australian Workplace Agreements (AWA's) will drive a stake through the heart of the 'fair go'.

One particularly misleading piece of advice from the government is that discriminatory dismissals will remain unlawful. This is part of the truth, but only part; the protection that the current system provides is to ensure that non-discriminatory reasons for dismissals cannot be used by employers as a method for avoiding unlawful dismissal of an employee; because such dismissals are currently covered by unfair dismissal laws.

For example, if an employer sacks an employee for being pregnant, that is an unlawful dismissal under the new legislation. But what if the employer cites poor work performance as the reason for dismissal as a method of avoiding the unlawful dismissal provisions? Under these new laws there is no feasible remedy for employees in such circumstances. The fact is employers will simply cite dismissal reasons other than those that are prescribed as unlawful. This highlights a key flawed principle in the legislation: **It seeks to make unfairness permissible in some circumstances, but not in others. This will inevitably lead to huge inequities in standards even within workplaces.**

What the Prime Minister doesn't tell you is that by removing the unfair dismissal protection currently provided by the Industrial Relations Commission, he is removing the only cheap, cost effective avenue of redress that employees have to challenge being unfairly sacked; whether the sacking is unlawful or not. The remedy the government regards as protection is using the Federal Court system and hiring expensive legal counsel to prosecute the matter. This is a non-option; what employee can afford to wait around for two years to see if their sacking from their job was unlawful? What employee can afford to pay tens of thousands of dollars for the privilege of waiting two years to find out if they were unfairly sacked?

Another key misleading statement relates to choice. As can be currently seen in the Minister's own Department, the only way to gain a job at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) is by signing an AWA. No AWA, no job. In addition, the Department is insisting that it will not finalise a collective agreement with staff and is insisting that existing employees must sign an AWA. So while the Minister is 'swanning' around the country telling voters that AWA's are about choice and that employees cannot be forced onto AWA's; he is trying to force his department's employee's onto AWA's.

Employers will be able to make promotion, pay rises and not be made redundant - all conditional upon signing an individual contract (AWA). With the removal of the current no disadvantage test, the new contract will be tested against five bare minimums: minimum hourly rate (currently \$12.75), weekly hours (probably 38), annual leave (probably four weeks, but perhaps less) and unpaid carers and parental leave.

All of the other conditions that employees have currently in their collective agreements such as overtime, penalty rates, redundancy provisions (including payments), jury leave, trade union leave, study-leave can all be abolished through the imposition of AWA's. Conditions such as long service leave and superannuation are also not protected by the new federal legislation, but the government likes to argue that super is covered by other legislation and long service leave by state legislation. While this is true, many collective agreements currently have better arrangements than the legislative minimum and therefore these conditions can also be attacked.

It is also interesting that the government states that it wants long service leave covered by state legislation at a time when it is seeking to use the 'Corporations' power in the Constitution to introduce national industrial laws. The clear implication is that this is just another way to erode this particular entitlement; otherwise why not legislatively protect the condition as the government proposes to do with annual holidays?

For the University sector these changes are even more chilling because there will be a requirement from the government to tie government funding of universities to the introduction of conditions cutting AWA's. The sector will not receive some funding from the government unless AWA's are forced onto staff. This will mean even less job security, which will mean a further reduction in quality as more and more experienced staff leave the sector.

FOCUS GROUPS OF POSTGRAD STUDENTS

There are a lot of changes proposed for postgraduate students so it's vital the PGB know more about the students that we represent.

We would like to convene focus groups consisting of a wide range of postgraduate students. We are looking to capture accounts of the UNSW postgraduate experience. We hope that these will enable us to put language and depth of experience alongside the randomised survey of postgraduates that Rae Duffy organised as last year's PGB Convenor. We will actively seek at least to have each faculty, international students, residential students, coursework, and research students represented. Our ability to organise groups representing diverse interests and experiences will of course depend on interest. Eliza has already spoken with COFA students. Any ideas on design or people to approach/include would be much appreciated. We anticipate that they would take about an hour and we would seek to hold them at convenient times for you over the next few weeks.

If you would be willing to share your experience in a confidential and de-identified manner in a focus group please let us know by sending a return email to Peter (p.nugus@student.unsw.edu.au). Once interest is gauged we will write back to you, seeking times that suit you and which enable us to organise groups as efficiently as possible. We will feel grateful and privileged for the opportunity to hear and learn from your experience as a postgraduate student at UNSW! Many thanks.

Cheers!
Eliza and Peter

A RUMINATION ON STUDY, FOR YOUR MASTICATION

STUDY is like the heaven's glorious sun,
That will not be deep searched with saucy looks;
Small have continued plodders ever won,
Save base authority from others books.

- Shakespeare

STUDY lends a kind of enchantment to all our surroundings.
- Balzac

The STUDY of beauty is a duel in which the artist cries with terror before being defeated.
- Baudelaire

The STUDY of crime begins with the knowledge of oneself. All that you despise, all that you loathe, all that you reject, all that you condemn and seek to convert by punishment, springs from you.
- Henry Miller

The STUDY and knowledge of the universe would somehow be lame and defective were no practical results to follow.
- Cicero

I'm a STUDY of a man in chaos in search of a frenzy.
- Oscar Levant

After three years STUDY, you want to tell the world;
after three more, you hardly want to move an inch.
- Chinese Proverb

As for me, I never STUDY. In our abbey, we never study, for fear of the mumps.
- Rabelais

Events Calendar

www.pgb.unsw.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you at these events soon!

For details of how to become involved, see the PGB website or keep an eye on the PGB e-list.

Tuesday August 16th

PGB big bbq

4-6 pm: This one is a must- collect your free food and PGB bag (see picture below)
NOT TO BE MISSED.

Wednesday August 17th

PGB AGM

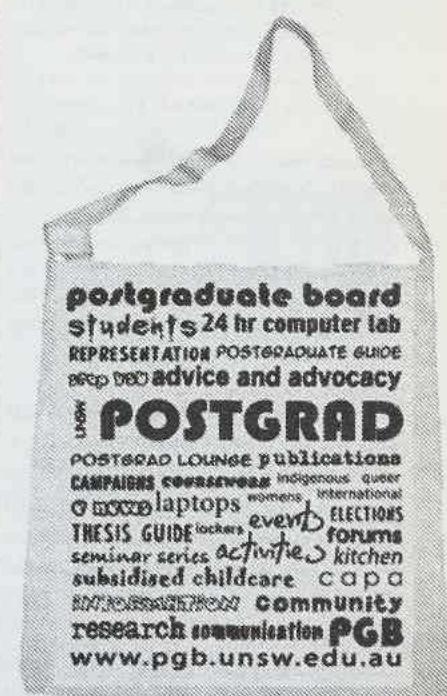
4pm: All postgraduate students are invited to our annual general meeting of members. Come one come all.

Sunday August 21st

Sydney swans

The Postgraduate Board teams up with the Sydney Swans to introduce you to AFL football.

In the following months you can look forward to lawn bowls, cricket, trivia night, and free films!



Articles compiled by PGB Co-Convenors
Eliza Muldoon and Peter Nugus.

Post Graduate Board

OB Reports

President's Report August 2005



I recently attended a Presidents' Summit in Canberra from the 14th-16th June. In total, I think there were over 25 campus Presidents and NUS Office-Bearers in attendance. The intent of the Summit was two-fold:

1. Presidents signed on to a 'Fairness Pledge'
2. Discussion about contingency planning in the event VSU is introduced

The 'Fairness Pledge' was an attempt to tackle head-on some of the criticisms that Nelson had been levelling against the Student Organisation sector. The Fairness Pledge aimed to enshrine the following four principles:

1. All students have the right to access a decent level of services and representation on campus.
2. Part-time and external students will be charged a fee commensurate with their ability to engage with the campus community.
3. Student Organisations will implement a flexible payment system for students facing extreme financial hardship.
4. Cross-institutional students will not have to pay student fees more than once.

As with any industry, Student Organisations are not without fault, and there are many outstanding issues that we need to address. However, we only need to look at the recent 'Palmer Inquiry', commissioned to look into the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, to see that even in the highest echelons of our public service, there is room for improvement.

However, it is clear that the desire to introduce VSU and shut down Student Organisations is an ideological obsession of the Federal Liberal Government. If the desire were truly to bring about change for the benefit of students, Minister Nelson would be engaging with Student Organisations to bring about these reforms.

Regardless, the UNSW Student Guild signed on to the Fairness Pledge to say that Student Organisations recognised that some 'reforms' had to be made in the sector, and these changes would be implemented next year regardless of whether VSU is introduced. The fight continues in semester 2 to save our Student Organisations, so come and get involved.

Contact: president@guild.unsw.edu.au

Secretary/Treasurer – Tharunka report



Editor's note: Gulfam is a great guy. Everybody should read his report. I know this may sound clichéd, maybe even a little hackneyed, but this report really did change my life. For the better.

Greetings supporters, friends, fans, and... well, I think the word 'fans' just about covers anyone important. Welcome to the Financial Review Edition of the Secretary/Treasurer's Office bearer report.

Before I proceed, I would just like to comment on Patrick 'I like to think up one liners in my spare time' Coyte, who commented on my report favourably numerous times, which cemented my already high opinion of him.

Financially the Guild is doing well, and we are well on target to amassing a rather large surplus. I am not a believer in large surpluses, because I think it's unfair to collect more money than you need, but I am a believer in financial prudence and efficiency, which means lower costs and greater value to students. Already we can see the investment opportunities that the free money generated has enabled which will enable us to provide even greater and higher quality services to students such as yourself.

The advent of VSU will mean we will have to restructure the organisation, and invest now in vital infrastructure and development. I will have to stop there, and perhaps I might write an article about it in Tharunka, because if I go on I'll use up my 400 word limit and have finished with all rhetoric and no facts. Given I am not the previous administration, I have no intention of doing this.

The Guild is a full \$47,569 above our projected result as of mid-year. This money will be put back into students through investments for the future, so it can keep paying dividends to students year on in. This is largely due to lower than expected departmental expenditure, as our departments have tended to focus more on participation and representation (which is traditionally quite cheap) and less on events. In short: less show and more action. We have still held large scale events, but these have been well managed and I am sure if you have had the privilege of going to O-week, Eco-Fair, The Night Markets or read a Tharunka, you will see that the quality has gone up, but would not be aware of how much the cost has gone down.

We also had unexpectedly large revenue amounts generated by Tharunka, almost 800% higher than expected, CASOC, by close to \$4000 and Activities, which has generated close to \$15000 more than expected, and this is before Foundation Day!

The results are also higher because we cut the pay of the student office bearers, which traditionally accounts for close to 10% of our budget, freeing up

more money to spend on students such as yourself. The only line item of note which has blown out is "Office Amenities". This is the cost of fixing doors, doorknobs, and putting up whiteboards, etc. This is due to mismanagement from the prior administration which decided to refurbish the Guild with a grant from the university which they promptly spent, but left the job undone. This meant the current Guild needed to pay for it from our operating budget. Despite this, we are still almost \$50,000 better off than we expected. With a restructure in progress, our operating budget is likely to see an even higher surplus, and our investments are likely to be quite significant. The mid year budget will be available at our website if you wish to have a look. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at sectreas@guild.unsw.edu.au

Gulfam

Indigenous Department Report



Hi Guys,

Session two for the Indigenous Department is about expressing our Culture, celebrating our Culture, and educating people about our Culture.

We will express our culture for what it is- beautiful, strong and inspiring. We will have a concert in week 5 to showcase contemporary Indigenous talent. This is all about Indigenous students feeling comfortable celebrating their culture and getting to know each others' stories and forming the relationships that cannot be broken- they are formed through bonds that can only be felt, experiences most will never hear about, and a will to make it in a world that has oppressed our people for many years. This concert will be a family friendly event, alcohol free, so that fun can be had for all. There will be performers, traditional Indigenous food, barbecue, and stories. The fine details are getting finalised as I type this up. Not only is this a way for Indigenous students to express their culture in a positive way- it is a means for non-Indigenous people to become involved in the Indigenous community and celebrate a culture that has survived against the odds for so long.

Another method of expression may be considered by many to be less powerful, but if it teaches one person that no matter how nice or sugar coated a racial insult may be, it is still racism and it is still wrong and you have every right to make it known that it is not acceptable. In my experience, there are a great proportion of Indigenous people who ignore racial insults and comments, or do not confront the individual because of a fear of authority enshrined from decades of abuse and ignorance from authorities. I hope to, through a discussion paper written from an Indigenous perspective containing many Indigenous perspectives and

stories; illustrate the different forms of racism, what remedies are available, who can help and in this way I hope to illustrate that the student Guild is not something to be fearful or cynical of (despite many being cynical through past circumstances).

I also want Indigenous students who come here to study and not feel like they are treading water- it is a huge transition to come to Uni for most people and anyone with an understanding of Indigenous people, culture and families will understand that it is especially difficult. That is why I have put together an information pack outlining the services that Sydney has to offer, the services that may be a necessity but not something many feel comfortable asking about in a foreign city. It also outlines the various Aboriginal communities throughout the Sydney region, and where you can go to get support from fellow Indigenous people- or to ask an elder for advice or guidance. What many people don't realise is that there isn't simply the homesickness of home where the family is, but also for many it is homesickness and yearning to be on their native land- which is why I have included peaceful natural places for these people to go to in order to relax, gather their thoughts or feel a sense of connection. I have made this guide quite comprehensive, a place for many saltwaters, freshwaters, and even bushies as I am.

Another thing that is extremely important for me to achieve in session two is education of as many people as possible as to what is acceptable language in the presence and what is unacceptable and downright offensive- because no longer will "oh sorry I didn't know" be accepted- there are enough opportunities and books for people to engage with to get an understanding, ignorance is no excuse! I am hoping to achieve this by holding a forum after our main events in weeks 5 and 10 have finished, but greater detail will be provided a few weeks before the event is to take place.

In week 10, with the help of the Indigenous Lawsoc representative, we are organising an Indigenous Fundraising dinner for the all important Nura Gili Pro-Programs. At this event (open to anyone- not just Uni staff and students) will be an opportunity to socialise with Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people that are interested in Indigenous culture or support the Indigenous cause. At this event there will be an opportunity to take part in the fundraising auction.

I'm sure many other projects will come my way from students' ideas- but that is what is concretely planned thus far for session two- and I hope that all of you who are interested will support these events.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Cromb
Indigenous Officer

Environment Department Report



Editor's note: This report was submitted early. This is actually the first time in the history of Tharunka that an OB report has been submitted before the due date, and it would only be proper to acknowledge that here. These people should get a medal.

Hey greenies (and others!)

We're in the midst of organising Environment Week 2005 at the moment and it's getting REALLY busy! We've planned events for Monday-Thursday lunchtimes for Week 5 (which incidentally, coincides with Women's Week). So it's going to be choc-a-block! If you want to get involved with making E-Week happen, feel free to pop by the Guild and leave a message in the Enviro pigeonhole or email us at enviro@guild.unsw.edu.au.

We're also having Enviro Collective meetings every Thursday at 1-2pm. By the time this goes to print, we may have relocated our meetings from the Quad Lawn (we're the group with the huge calico banner on the grass) to Rm 1001 - if we're not at one place, we're at the other! Be sure to come by to listen to what we have to say, or just simply pop by to say hi!

We'll be following on from our Semester 1 Paper Campaign with EcoPads as well as uniting with our national (Australian Students' Environment Network - ASEN), state (State Environment Activist Network - SEAN) and UNSW activists in a massive campaign against climate change! So there's heaps of exciting things happening with the Enviro Collective - make sure you're involved!

Your Environment Directors,

Susan (0423 826 700) & Naomi (0413 700 911)

POSTGRADUATE BOARD (PGB) CO-CONVENORS' REPORT

To new postgraduate students, welcome and to continuing postgrads welcome back!

It has been an extremely busy few weeks for us. Firstly, we would like to welcome Damien Fisher, our newest Board member. Of course, the Stop VSU campaign continues. The new senate is ready to go, so now we have just weeks left to fight and plan. Don't forget the NDA on August 10th. There are so many 'what ifs' to consider right now; what if full fee VSU comes in? What if a general service fee, charged by the university, is permitted? What if we win this battle? A lot of contingency plans need to be made.

Many of you will know that the new Graduate Research School has arrived- much to the delight of research students across the university. As co-convenors we will be meeting fortnightly and working with Prof. Margaret Harding, the Dean of

the GRS, to help ensure that the school serves the needs of research students.

There are some exciting plans underway. The Events Committee has been working on an events calendar for session 2. See the PGB pages for details. Special thanks to Angela Barrett for translating our Events

calendar from ideas to actual events.

We are thrilled that the new furniture has arrived

as well as the new

laptops for hire. Thanks to Yvonne Luxford for organising this. We are now working closely with the library on a refurbishment to create extra postgraduate study space.

Some of you may have seen us addressing new coursework for postgraduate students, visiting your classes or at the PGB stall. Thanks to Geoff Capelin and Damien Fisher for staffing the stall.

Recent PGB seminars have included: The future of Bi-lingual education in China and Efficiency Wage Models in the Australian Economy. On Tuesday, 2nd August, we are hosting Radical Islam and Civil Democracy. Don't forget our BBQ on Tuesday, 16th August 4pm on the Scientia lawn. The PGB AGM is on Wednesday, 17th August. We are looking for more postgrads to join the Board - especially coursework postgrads! Board members can be elected directly at our AGM rather than having to wait until annual elections later in the year. Most importantly please sign up to our email list so that you can participate in discussions and find out what's happening: <http://www.pgb.unsw.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/post-grad>

Eliza Muldoon and Peter Nugus
Co-Convenors, Postgraduate Board

Activities Director's Report



Hey dudes and gals! It's your Activities Director Vega here, and have I got a report for you! Yes I have!

Foundation day was a smashing success, thanks a bunch to everyone who helped out on the day - the OBs, those good looking, snappily dressed Tharunka editors, and especially the volunteers. The day would not have happened without your tireless non-paid labour, and I hope it gets you a job some day.

I had a fantastic time on Foundation day - it was a little stressful though! Luckily I didn't let it get to me, and got the chance to see some great acts. Rastawookie and the Androids really went off, but my favourite was Sydney four-piece The Nouns, who played at the end of the day. I can honestly say I've never enjoyed a band so much in my life - they really "rocked-out"!

Well, that's all from me, Vega!

Vega

LECTURER Makeover 1:0:7

By Alex Serpo and Andrew O'Loughlin

Are you a UNSW lecturer who's bored with your image? Have you always dreamed of a fabulous new look to express that alter-ego burning to break free of the drab garb of academic convention? Do you notice students idly penning unflattering caricatures of you during your lectures? Do you regularly wish some fairy godmother would wave their wand to reveal a brand new you? Your wish is granted.

Special thanks to

CazaC

The art of hair and make up
11 Havelock Ave Coogee
9665 5735

Gabina Funegra: Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies

BEFORE!



Before

Lecturer; Department of Spanish
and Latin American Studies.

Fluent in Spanish

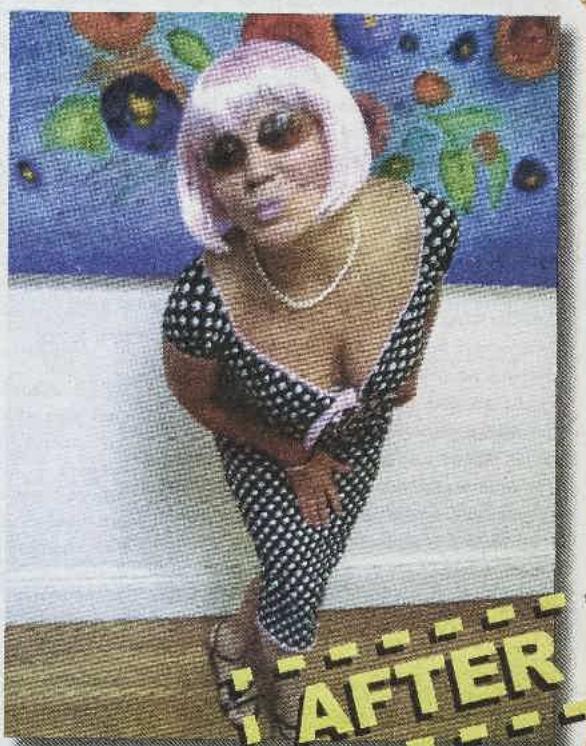
Passionate Teacher

Marking Tests

Coffee & Books

Marks if you're right

AFTER!



After

Party Princess

Cruising to Ravish

Party Preacher

Dressed to impress

Jealous looks

Out all night.